

CANADA'S

WEEKLY NEWSMAGAZINE

# Maclean's

THE 12<sup>th</sup> ANNUAL

## HONOR ROLL

DECEMBER 22, 1997

*Saluting Canadian  
Achievement*

- Barry and Jennifer Armstrong
- Father Emmett Johns
- Anne Michaels
- Joyce Kilgus
- Placide Poulin
- Mary Pratt
- Ron Richardson
- John Roth
- Peter St. George-Hyslop
- Anthony Vincent
- Milton Wong

● Karen Kain

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# From The Editor

## Making policy on the run



Canada was going to sign the Kyoto Protocol come hell or high water. As Ottawa Editor Bruce Wallace reports from the global warming conference in Japan, several factors before the final agreement the federal delegation had chalked up acceptance, leaving a blank to fill

in Canada's emission target and declaring it "a good deal for Canada" (page 20). From beginning to the bitter end, Ottawa's handling of the issue was a mystery to behold. First, Prime Minister Jean Chrétien ordered his leading cabinet to beat the Americans' target. But by the time the conference opened, the government was so conflicted by opposing interests that it actually had no position to put forward. Then a disaster, Kyoto was one of those Kyoto-like affairs, complete with shamblering delegates and deals in the back room. When the conference was adjourned, Canada had committed itself to a position short of the Americans—but far too bold for Canada's energy-producing provinces.

Bill Clinton, in turn, had come away with a Pyrrhic victory. It is clear that the U.S. Senate will not easily ratify the agreement. However, Clinton got up a brave front, declaring that every major advance in cleaning up the environment has been preceded by tales of impending doom. But this time, facing the browbeaten Paula Jones sex scandal and a Congress emboldened by the fact that he is now a lame duck, Clinton is in for trouble. Already, the Republicans are

trying to pass the agreement as a debate on the scale of the global health-care plan. The unabashed Steve Forbes, a Republican contender for the presidency, has denounced Kyoto as "an unprecedented government seizure of American freedom and sovereignty."

Whether action against global warming can achieve the same kind of success as the last major campaign remains to be seen. The aerosols lining up against their powerful, starting with big oil and coal. The other obvious impediment is the North American consensus to the convenience of the car. Until folks can drive to the market or the lake in a nonpolluting vehicle that they can afford—say which does not carry 1,000 lb. of batteries—a leading cause of greenhouse gases will continue.

Encouragingly, several efforts are under way to produce zero-emission vehicles. General Motors and Honda are already selling cars powered by longer-lasting nickel-hydrogen batteries, while Chrysler is experimenting with fuel-cell technology—the sort being pioneered by Vancouver's Ballard Power Systems Inc. Those, perhaps, allow more realistic prospects of cleaning up the environment than a protocol signed on the run in Kyoto.

Robert Lewis



At Kyoto, shamblering delegates, churn in the back room

## Newsroom Notes:

### Solving excellence

For the second time in three years, reporting on the annual Maclean's Honor Roll required a visit to the Iberian Peninsula. In 1995, it was to profile driver Jacques Villeneuve, who he prepared for a race in Portugal. This year, it was to catch up with Anthony Vincent, Canada's current ambassador to Spain. Vincent is cited in the Honor Roll for his adventures in his previous posting in Peru where he was taken hostage when terrorists seized the



Vincent (left), Design Co-ordinator Sally Beyer, Penelope Lourenço, Canada's

Japanese embassy. Vincent's courage and perseverance in trying to end the five month crisis is characteristic of all 12 honorees, Canadians from St. John's, Nfld., to Vancouver who made a difference in 1997. The package was overseen by Michael Benedek, the magazine's editorial director of new ventures, and designed by Art Director Nick Benedek. Said Benedek: "This is the 12th Honor Roll, and we seem to have more worthy Canadians to choose from now than we did in the beginning." The honorees and the winner of the annual \$125,000 Royal Bank Award will be featured in a one-hour Global TV special, hosted by Pamela Wallin and Peter Kent on Dec. 29 at 9 p.m.

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## Teen violence

A recent still-blooming season of violence? After reading your article "Bad girls" (Cover, Dec. 8), I was disappointed to find a recurring theme that the violent tendencies of young females and their complicity to exploit themselves is a self-destructive manner is often the result of an abusive, dominating father and a mother who is equally repressed by this tyrannical family. While I am not denying that this may be a profile that surfaces, it is still an easy scapegoat. It is like blaming the anorexia and bulimia in young girls is due to the repressive demands of a phallosentric society, when in fact it is much more complicated than that. When are women going to take responsibility for themselves and the actions? It would seem to me that the more we scapegoat men as the direct or indirect cause of our ills, the more we empower them and reinforce a patriarchal society. Does't equality mean taking equal responsibility?



Aruna Mark  
Lyon, France

The horror of British Columbia teenager Linnea Vavra post slaughter has produced the usual spate of local wringing by the academic community and those appointed to investigate at society's ills. The city of Landon, Ont., was recently shocked to learn of a 15-year-old local girl's attempt to slash the throat of a younger male school mate. While differing vastly in details, the current *Fantasmata* are similar. Why do we stand aside when children learn to violence, the same children who were reared on *Mad Max*, *Nip/Tuck*, who quickly absorbed the message of *Power Rangers* and WWF wrestling, and who are now caricatured by the *Stallone*, *Willis* and *Schwarzenegger* Big Boy? *Theory of Problem Solving* brought up in *Science* holds too many to provide the values that

have sustained us for centuries. It is a wonder that more children don't seek to destroy each other and the world around them.

Charles G. Arden  
London, Ont. 88

It took a while, but this article finally reached the root of the problem with teenage violence—a lack of moral teaching by parents. The state is being asked to replace parents in the maintenance of too many standards in society and its viability is evident. The most apparent standard the state must enforce is that of parental responsibility.

Dawn Kirk  
Mississauga, Ont.

## The blood scandal

Canada's tainted blood scandal ("A harsh rebuke," Canada, Dec. 8) involved all three of the old-line political parties federally and/or provincially to one degree or another. The monumental bungling of the respective health ministries and, of course, the Red Cross stands as a testament to inexcusable carelessness, gross incompetence and possibly criminal negligence. The decent and honorable thing to do at this late stage would be to financially compensate the innocent victims or family survivors of the lost blood transfusions, and to do so promptly.

Fair R. Arls  
Greenwich, Ont.

## Something rank

The rankings of universities that your magazine publishes every year was, I thought, meant to be a guide to students to pick the schools that will best prepare them for their chosen careers ("Universities 97," Cover/Special Issue, Nov. 30). As a graduate of the University of Ottawa's medical school, I have always been bemused by Ottawa's poor ranking under the medical school category. This year, in fact, you ranked my alma mater eleventh out of 15 schools. That is quite the wrong choice, when I could have gone to Queen's University or the University of Toronto, which Maclean's indicates are far superior at producing competent doctors. I felt vindicated when I read that Ottawa's graduating class scored the highest mark of

## Older but better

Having just hit my milestone three weeks ago as a male boomer, I would agree with a lot of what John O'Hara said ("When baby boomers hit Five-0," Columns, Dec. 11). One or two generations ago, 50 was old. But today, 50 is a state of mind. I had more trouble at 40, and had my mid-life crisis then. I looked forward to my 50th with tremendous anticipation. My health is the best it has ever been thanks to daily workouts (something I didn't even start until I was 45) and, frankly, I am much better off than I was at 40. On a personal note, my children are either in college or on their own and doing well, and I am proud of their accomplishments. I still thank young men though my body screams this tells me I'm old.

Michael P. Tse  
Ottawa, Ont. 88

all the medical schools on the licensing exam, which surely should suggest a conclusion about Ottawa's ranking other than the one in your issue.

John A. Debric  
Orthopedic Surgery Resident  
Children's Hospital of Eastern Ontario  
Ottawa 88

## Human rights

I was disappointed in how the police dealt with the student protests against the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation forum ("A summit engulfed by crisis," World, Dec. 8). While not a protester but only an interested observer, I saw unfortunately, if not, students increasing their rights and upholding their conscience. Against these well-reasoned kids stood the full force of the state equipped with a chain link fence, hundreds of officers, vacuum police dogs and pepper spray. Witnessing the indignities served upon University of British Columbia students had me raging, and I realized the fragile nature of our civil and human rights. I only hope that the kids who had the courage to brave the police are not now regretting their decision.

Mark Dauchy  
Richmond, B.C.

It is absurd to even think about having a conference dealing with international trade and also discussing human rights, the two go hand in hand. You can't have industrial or commercial development without affecting people's lives, and you can't make trade from human rights. All over the World,



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TUNE IN AT 9 P.M.  
MONDAY, DECEMBER 29, 1997

# Canadian Heroes

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## Backstage



# Anthony Wilson-Smith

## With Chrétien, the optics matter

One rule for elected politicians is that the importance of what they say depends upon where and when they say it. Consider the significance of geography. For a federal politician to declare, say, Quebec's distinct character when speaking within the province is expected. To do the same, on the other hand, in Alberta or British Columbia requires either great acrobatic or a death wish. Then, there is timing. As every politician and journalist knows, the best time to say something that will make headlines is a Sunday afternoon, when all is quiet and editors are desperate to fill Monday's front page.

All of which explains why Prime Minister Jean Chrétien did both something and nothing new several weeks ago at a Sunday afternoon news conference in Quebec City. In response to questions, he said that the federal government would negotiate with Quebec if a strong majority voted yes to a clear-cut referendum question on sovereignty. To most people, that is old news—and Chrétien has already said that on many occasions, going back to his appearance in front of Quebec's Bélanger-Campeau commission in 1991. Several pundits hailed the statement as "an important concession"; some liberals were disappointed for the same reason. But the importance, as political punditry says, was in the optics. Chrétien had not made that assertion in a while, and he chose a time and venue that guaranteed it would make news. The reason for doing so, his aides later said, was to support interprovincial Atlantic Minister Stronach Don, who believed that the best way to counter the sovereigntist threat to to split off previously lost Ottawa would result after a Yes vote.

As is so often the case on many issues, matters of substance. That is also true of the content and circumstances surrounding the Calgary declaration, the latest unity-related initiative to absorb the attention of the country's political class. The declaration, agreed upon by the country's nine topophone premiers in September, ostensibly sought something for all, but delivers nothing specific. For Quebecers, it recognizes the province's "unique character." For other Canadians, it notes that all provinces are equal, and that any powers offered to one should be offered to all. Faced with that political equivalent of motherhood, all federal parties, with the predictable exception of the Bloc Québécois, signed on. So have a number of provincial legislatures—including Alberta's, which last week passed a unanimous declaration of support.

Once again, the behind-the-scenes activities are the most interesting, including several realities that those involved would rather not acknowledge. One is that despite efforts to consult ordinary Canadians, most strategies supporting the agreement predicated an

enthusiastic response. One federal official following the pre-agreement efforts says dryly that "the more low-key, the better the chances of success." So do the two men who have come from in Alberta and British Columbia, where anti-Quebec sentiment often runs highest, public hearings sponsored by the two governments were sparsely attended. In Quebec, a recent poll showed that 86 per cent of Quebecers are tired of talk about the Constitution, and 65 per cent think that another referendum even if the Parti Québécois is re-elected.

In many ways, the key to what happens next rests with two Albertans, Premier Ralph Klein and Minister Stronach. Both have been so much in contact, including their lack of enthusiasm for each other—are quietly making it difficult to better understand Quebec.

When Klein visited Manning last month for a publicly announced meeting with Manning, he also held a private dinner meeting with key business and political figures who briefed him on the state of opinion in the province.

Manning has often similarly unpublicized trips to enlighten Reform's position in the province. He recently lured Quebec City academic Gilles St-Laurent, who ran for the party in the last election, as an adviser. Before Reform announced its stand on the Calgary declaration this fall, Manning's most important adviser, Quebec writer Rick Anderson, contacted several French-speaking media figures in advance to discuss the party's position. And the party's bilingual constitutional affairs coordinator, Edmonton MP Robert Joffe, visited a rural Quebec region last week in the belief that regular visits to spread the word of Reform's support is crucial to any future agreement. Manning's strength and curse as a politician is his willingness to blantly say the most delicate balancing act of any leader. If he seems overly sympathetic to Quebec, it will not likely win him support there, but will probably hurt him in his traditional base in the West. However, if Manning appears accommodation to Quebec, he could deal lasting damage to efforts to expand Reform's popularity.

Almost every leader has a similar dilemma. Because of that, there is a suspicion that some politicians involved in the Calgary declaration have one public agenda, and one lesser, hidden one. The declared goal is to fall second that would win support in Quebec. But the next best thing might be to deliberately drift, preserving the illusion of agreement on all other matters. To measure the real status of those involved, it may be not only what they say in coming months—but where, when and how they say it. The 18th-century German philosopher Otto von Guericke once said that anyone who knows someone or their shadow or their shadow either being made. True, but at least these operations can both be constant or to produce a final product—unlike the country's equally unsteady unity process.

In matters of national unity, the more low-key the negotiations are, the better the chance of their ultimate success

# Opening Notes

Edited by BARBARA WICKENS

## McLachlan's mystery

Swish McLachlan has often been called the real *East Is West*. But the two have more than their conformational songwriting in common. Earlier this year, Mitchell, 54, was reunited with the daughter she gave up for adoption in 1966. How it turns out that Vancouver-borne McLachlan was herself adopted. The details are revealed in *Building a Mystery*, an unchronological biography by Toronto-area writer Judith Fitzgerald, which unravels the basic, Fitzgerald—who was denied access to the singer—struggled upon a photograph of a woman and a telephone number. In July, she spoke with Judy James, a Halifax-based artist. James said she got Smith up for adoption soon after giving birth in 1968. After reuniting in 1995, the two now talk several times a year. Fitzgerald also spoke with McLachlan's adoptive mother, Dorcas, who said she and her husband, Jack, who also live in Halifax, told Smith about the adoption "as soon as she was able to understand anything." Still, it seems that McLachlan's management company, Hershberg, would have preferred that the two women had not talked—and sent warning letters to Fitzgerald and her publisher, Quiver Press in Kingston, Ont. In an apparent—and ultimately futile—attempt to discourage publication.



The singer gives an voice to her personal history of adoption

## He is not a bigot, but he plays one

TV actors are used to people making their play for the cameras as they play. But the case of Bruce Gray is no longer far-fetched. The Toronto actor, investment banker Adam Coady's series, has made headlines for the past year in a series of U.S. commercial launches from two sources from America, the Dutch law firm company to the TV and print ads. Gray assumes the mask persona of German Bayard, head of the American for Disfranchisement Behavior, a mythical right-wing lobbyist group in political.



Gray acts against imported meats

Bayard fulfills against America beer in one of the charge advertisements. The American way of life. But some people have taken the main message, including Gray on New York City streets to offer their support or to criticize his on-screen views. "A very nice woman with a Dutch accent came up to me," says Gray, "and asked why was I saying all these terrible things about her country." Events took as even stranger when which police contacted Wills, Rick, and Green, the Massachusetts advertising firm that created the ad campaign, seeking information about a Mr. Bayard. A bomb had gone off in a kitchen bar in Alaska, they explained, very close to a stillborn. Following Bayard and his society. Some believed inaccuracies quickly informed the editors that Bayard was a fictional character. Meanwhile, Gray jokes that from now on he will stick to Scotch

## Few want to fight Tobin

Wanted: the charismatic, articulate, politically astute person willing to lead a band of despairing persons in a crusade against Captain Canada. That was not exactly the advertisement that Newfoundland's Progressive Conservatives put out last week—but it may as well have been. The winner of the party's leadership convention on March 6 and 7 in St. John's took the unenviable task of squaring off against Liberal Premier Brian Tobin, who won a landslide victory in February, 1995, less than two months after he left his post as federal fisheries minister. Vancouver's Captain Canada for his role in stalling down foreign fishing fleets off the Grand Banks. Tobin was welcomed home like a conquering hero. His win was still barely deflated: a recent Corporate Research Associates poll showed the Liberals favored by 56 per cent of disaffected voters, compared with 26 per cent for the Tories and nine per cent for the NDP. It is little wonder, then, that many would-be Tory converts are thinking hard. John O'Donohue and Ed Byrne, two members of the 10-person "Tory caucus," have told themselves out. Logan Sullivan, veteran leader since the 1996 election, was, as of last week, still weighing his options. That left Doug Morris, a 45-year-old lawyer from Harbour Centre, Nfld., who is no relation to former Newfoundland Premier Frank Morris, as the only declared candidate. Doug Morris—who has never run for office, but who steps along support among the party hierarchy—acknowledges that he won't win the "Tory leadership" as an uphill battle. But he remains optimistic. "The bigger the challenge, the greater the effort that will have to be put into it."

## Putting a political spin on staying still

Reason that the top spin doctors for the Liberal government were on their way to greater pastures have proven premature. Terrie O'Leary, Finance Minister Paul Martin's executive assistant and after ago, was widely named as ready to leap to a job in the private sector. In a twist, O'Leary is staying put—for now—but loosening her grip on the day-to-day chore of managing Martin's image. Much of that responsibility

will now pass to Scott Reid, a rising star of opposition who is going to Martin's still in director of communications. Reid, 28, comes via Karacich Strategy Group, the lobbying and consulting firm that serves Martin as a coalition policy think-tank and political strategy shop. While there is no suggestion on O'Leary is preparing to exit anyone else, it is clear that Reid might be expected to also take her place within a year. Meanwhile, the only Liberal message manager with more claim than O'Leary, communications director Peter Dunlop of the Prime Minister's Office, has also been reassigned; he would leave early in Jean Charest's second mandate. Once rumored to be making over prospective possibilities, Dunlop is now thought to be securing prestigious foreign postings for his next job.

## Weston speaks out

Like the governor general of Canada, provincial lieutenant governors are not supposed to get involved in politics. But last week, Ontario Lt.-Gov. Hilary Weston admitted a strongly worded speech to the Canadian Club of Toronto about the difficulties many of her fellow citizens are facing. Weston, who is married to a grocery store King College, Ontario, one of Canada's richest men, noted that in particular youth and working women are having difficulties.

"The recovery is far from stable, and it is universal. Unemployment remains to be stuck at unacceptably high numbers, particularly amongst our young people. That should be of a special concern to all of us because many other social problems flow from it."

On working women: "Power is not seen to be a man's game, and in many ways it still is."

BEST-SELLERS	
FICTION	
1	The Whitechapel, John Grisham (12)
2	Barney's Version, Michael Ondaatje (12)
3	The Girl on the Train, Rachel Watson (12)
4	A Distant Shore, P. D. James (12)
5	Lily's Hat, Carl Hiaasen (12)
6	Wildly, Emily St. John Mandel (12)
7	Red Boy, John Grisham (12)
8	The Girl on the Train, Rachel Watson (12)
9	Barney's Version, Michael Ondaatje (12)
10	The Girl on the Train, Rachel Watson (12)
11	Barney's Version, Michael Ondaatje (12)
12	Barney's Version, Michael Ondaatje (12)
NONFICTION	
1	No Nukes, John Decker and Geoffrey Moore (12)
2	The Man Who Wasn't There, Michael Ondaatje (12)
3	Barney's Version, Michael Ondaatje (12)
4	Barney's Version, Michael Ondaatje (12)
5	Barney's Version, Michael Ondaatje (12)
6	Barney's Version, Michael Ondaatje (12)
7	Barney's Version, Michael Ondaatje (12)
8	Barney's Version, Michael Ondaatje (12)
9	Barney's Version, Michael Ondaatje (12)
10	Barney's Version, Michael Ondaatje (12)
11	Barney's Version, Michael Ondaatje (12)
12	Barney's Version, Michael Ondaatje (12)

## A book to remember

Following upon the success of his first book, *Down Island*, B.C.-based author Nick Barlow has written *The Floating Room*. The novel, about a young man who tries to understand his mother's connection to the family home he has inherited from his grandfather, is heavily illustrated with the author's enigmatic drawings.

This has got to change. There have been significant improvements in recent decades, of course, but the glass ceiling remains firmly in place and the efforts to shatter it have not been without personal cost. That's especially true for those women who have been driven out of the workplace by a desire for personal fulfillment, but by economic necessity. "Almost every working woman, I've seen, feels torn apart by her competing and very demanding roles as wife, mother, daughter, breadwinner and citizen. The most successful women gain a sense upon the whole of society."

## Passages



**MIRRED:** U.S. Justice Minister Anne McLellan, in Ottawa. She is a Washington lawyer highly critical of Ottawa's efforts in pursuing suspected Nazi war criminals, will serve as an adviser to the department of justice's War Crimes Unit. From 1985 to 1994, she was director of the U.S. Justice Department's Office of Special Investigations, which stepped claims of suspected Nazis criminals of their citizenship. In Canada, previous governments deported only one suspected Nazi war criminal, and no one has been convicted of war crimes.

**DIED:** Wilfred Eberhart, 83, one of the founders of the school of journalism at Ottawa's Carleton University, at an Ottawa hospital, after a fall. Two books he wrote, 1967's *History of Journalism in Canada* and 1970's *The Law and the Press in Canada*, became texts at Carleton and elsewhere.

**SIGNED:** Pitcher Pedro Martinez, 26, the 1997 National League Cy Young Award winner, to a record-setting \$109-million, six-year contract, by the Boston Red Sox, which obtained the right-hander in a trade with the Montreal Expos.

**SIGNED:** Left winger Paul Kariya, 25, to a two-year, \$20-million deal with the Anaheim Mighty Ducks, ending the free agent's 32-game hiatus.

**DIED:** Giovanni Agnelli, 33, the popular heir to the Fiat empire, Italy's largest private industrial complex, of stomach cancer, in Turin.

**DONATED:** By singer Dina Juki, 50, a cheque for \$47 million, the first instalment of royalties from his worldwide *Canada in the Wind*, to a fund benefiting the fourth charitable of *Blacks in Canada*, who died in a Paris car crash on Jan. 31.

**PLEADED GUILTY:** To 30 counts of indecently assaulting boys aged 16 to 18 from 1971 to 1981, paediatrician Norman Doherty, 58, who will be sentenced on Jan. 30, in a Toronto court.





# Turning the screws

BY JOHN DeMONT  
and MARY JANIGAN

The First Ministers had barely taken their first steps when Alberta Premier Ralph Klein began to denounce the federal government's tactics. How, he asked, could Ottawa have dared to strike a deal on global

environmental spending the coming surplus on social programs, including health, education, child care and measures to combat youth unemployment?

Faced with that non-province front, the federal government could ground it agreed to explain "collaborative approaches" on how it uses federal money. Although both sides looked over the scope of that con-

front that both levels of government can work together. Among the highlights:

- The two sides will negotiate a so-called framework agreement, which is intended to clarify the ground rules for co-operation on social programs, and set up mechanisms to resolve disputes. Although the provinces insisted this could allow them to determine when and how financial penalties are imposed under the Canada Health Act for violations such as over fees, Quebec's staunchly resisted that interpretation. He asserted that Ottawa would merely agree to a formal process before it took action. "The law can only be enforced by the federal government," he said.
- The First Ministers agreed to discuss

## The provinces win concessions from Ottawa



Meeting at 24 Sussex Drive, the new mood in relations

meeting, it was clear that the provinces had finally forced Ottawa to work with them, instead of alone. In future, said Ontario Premier Mike Harris, "there is absolutely no doubt that they will not make us delivery." Added Manitoba's Gary Filmon: "It is collaborative. There is no province from which."

Perhaps predictably, Bouchard will not participate in these discussions. Although he clearly sympathized with his fellow premiers as they struggled to curb Ottawa's spending power, he would not abandon his unwavering stand. Ottawa has no right to spend in areas of provincial responsibility such as social programs—but must transfer those funds to the provinces without conditions. "I spared Quebec a very heavy political cost," Bouchard maintained as he defended his decision to boycott the planned talks. Besides, however, say that no refusal to participate spared fiery exchanges with Newfoundland Premier Brian Tobin.

Undeterred, his fellow premiers and Chretien cited their four-page agreement as

joint measures by next June to alleviate youth unemployment, which is hovering at 16 per cent. Those measures likely will include improved access to skills training and expanded inter-provincial programs.

- They agreed to work together to determine exactly what the Kyoto agreement means for each level of government—and how they will go about the task of implementing a complicated deal hammered out in the back rooms (page 22).

But the novel spectacle of the nine provinces flexing their hardware, it still tentative, only almost obscured those individual accomplishments. Stung by federal cutbacks in cash transfers, those provinces have worked hard over the past two years, clearing out massive papers on everything from youth unemployment to the future design of federal transfers. As a result, they switched into the First Ministers' meeting with a unified position. Ottawa must work with the provinces on all future social initiatives. For starters, they asked, is the federal

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WHAT MATTERS TO CANADIANS

## CANADA

deficit disappears Ottawa must use much of its so-called fiscal dividend to shore up basic transfers to the provinces for health and education before it launches new ventures such as home care and pharmacare. A senior federal official said Ottawa agreed "not to shove them down their throats," deferring those programs until provincial concerns about the current healthcare system are resolved. "That pays the money where we say it should go to," asserted Ontario's Harris. "We are a united group on this."

That very story ensured the conference's one clear result. Ottawa is gradually and gradually accepting the fact that it can no longer spend as it wishes in the social policy field. Such recognition is a political, not a legal, act of faith. Despite Quebec's insistence that provinces alone have the right to occupy the social policy arena, the Constitution Act, 1982, secretly grants exclusive power to "make laws" in that domain to the provinces. It does not curb Ottawa's right to spend its tax dollars as it wishes.

Although Ottawa has only affirmed that there will be no new award-cost programs without the consent of the majority of the provinces, consultation on any future social spending has become the unofficial watchword. "The federation is changing even though the federal government has been slow to understand that these changes are taking place," says University of Alberta economist Paul Boivin. "Ottawa unilaterally changed the contract once, when they cut transfers—and the provinces and the voters won't tolerate that again."

Even before the First Ministers met, provincial finance ministers earlier last week demanded a review in how Ottawa spends its operating surplus, and called for increased transfer payments and lower Employment Insurance premiums. Although federal Finance Minister Paul Martin refused to commit himself to such measures, he may find it hard to ignore the provinces' unified front. And after repeated refusals, he finally agreed that provinces should gain the right to set their own tax rates and tax brackets. At present, provinces can thereby peg their rates as a percentage of the federal rate. "In the past, Ottawa has always said that they didn't want too much provincial variation," notes David Perry, senior research associate at the Canadian Tax Foundation. "Now, the pressure to lessen the federal rigidity is getting greater."

That pressure can only increase as the nine provinces speak with greater authority in their newly united voice. As the First Ministers' meeting broke up, a bayonet Christmas sent the premiers on their way with the cheery reminder that he would see them on the Feast of Canada's trade mission in Latin America next month. Thence together on a lengthy jaunt, he can only hope they concentrate on trade, not common-front tactics. □

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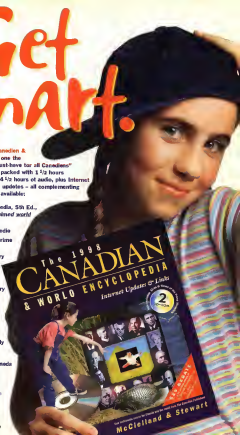
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A Gitksan dancer celebrates in Vancouver, a hard-fought negotiation in good faith.

CANADA

## Changing the rules

The Gitksan and Wet'suwet'en people began arriving at the cedar meeting hall in Hazelton, B.C., at 5:30 a.m. last Thursday. The chiefs wore traditional red and black beaver blankets and carved wooden and shagreen head-dresses with ornate fur trim. Some had draped bear-claw necklaces over their shirts. Volunteers fed bacon and potatoes and baked oat bûchees for breakfast. All waited for a phone call from Ottawa with word about a Supreme Court of Canada decision that would affect their rights in the land they claim—58,000 square kilometres of northwest British Columbia, an area the size of Nova Scotia. It came at 6:45 a.m.—and the news was staggering: The Supreme Court ruled that native people can have clear, defensible aboriginal title to their land, that their oral histories on which they base their claims are just as valid as written European history, and that governments have "a moral, if not legal, duty" to negotiate land claims and other settlements "in good faith." And the court also ordered a new trial to determine whether the Gitksana and Wet'suwet'en—whose legal battle against the B.C. and federal governments began in 1984 when 50 hereditary chiefs took their case to the courts—do in fact have title to the land.

Experts quickly called the ruling a landmark decision. "The courts don't usually go this far," said Brian Stacey, a constitutional law expert at Osgoode Hall Law School in Toronto. And, added Marvin Storrer, a lawyer with Holm, Cassels and Graydon in Vancouver who has represented several B.C. native groups, "the decision has profound ramifications." It certainly does—and especially in British Columbia, where most native groups have never signed land treaties and more than 220 are currently pursuing land claims that cover the entire province.

In its ruling, the Supreme Court threw aside a 1991 decision by Chief Justice Allan McEachern of the B.C. Supreme Court that the Gitksan and Wet'suwet'en could not substantiate their land claims because their oral histories "were not sufficiently reliable," and that aboriginal title in British Columbia had been extinguished during the colonial period. Instead, the court said that McEachern had been mistaken. Had he assessed the oral histories correctly, Chief Justice Antonio Lamer wrote, his "conclusions on these issues of fact might have been very different." And the court went further, offering a clear definition of how aboriginal title can be

established in law. Bands must prove they occupied their lands at the time the Crown asserted sovereignty over those areas. Experts say this will increase the likelihood of courts accepting claims to aboriginal title over parts of Canada not covered by treaty.

Native leaders greeted the judgment as a milestone. "This is a major victory for our people," said Assembly of First Nations national Chief Phil Fontaine. "I think this enables us to speed up the process of negotiations with governments." Reaction among the Gitksan and Wet'suwet'en, who together number about 7,000 people and have a long history of protesting intruders on their land, was more emotional. The ruling, according to Wet'suwet'en Chief Victor Jim, a principal at Monctown Elementary School, "brought a big lump to my throat." Jim, whose aboriginal name is Mchalew—meaning Mr. Hawk and His Dog—also said "it means our chiefs' oral histories are as important as European written history."

Gitksan representatives were similarly upbeat. "It was more than I even hoped for," said Gordon Sebastian, the Gitksan litigation co-ordinator. "I'm 48 years old and I was born on this reserve, and we've never really had anything come to our favor like this." No longer will the Gitksan people have to block roads to prevent logging on their land, said Sebastian, whose Gitksana name is Arad-berbuko (Grouse Belly). "We'll just go to court and get an injunction. Now, we've got the law under our arm."

An experts last week tried to assess the decision's potential impact on logging and mining operations in British Columbia. It was also clear that the ruling would have ramifications in other parts of the country. In Atlantic Canada, Miqmaq have also not signed treaties defining their land rights. "Everybody in the country must have been waiting for something like this to happen," said Muel Jet, an official chief of the Cowie River Miqmaq in Newfoundland—who are preparing a land claim that covers up to 15 per cent of the province. "We can all now look at it and say this is something we can draw on."

The B.C. government, meanwhile, now says that rather than wage another expensive court battle, it would rather negotiate—as the Supreme Court recommended. "Very often, courts provide you with more questions than answers," said Peter Smith, spokesman for the B.C. ministry of aboriginal affairs. "In this particular case, the Supreme Court has provided guidelines and it's something we obviously respect." For native groups, it is an acceptance that has been a long time coming.

JENNIFER HUNTER in Vancouver

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## Canada NOTES

### STUBBS RESIGNS

John Stubbs, the embattled president of Simon Fraser University in Burnaby, B.C., resigned as part of a \$500,000-plus settlement that will allow him to return to teaching history. Stubbs, now on medical leave, had upheld a controversial sexual harassment charge against swim coach Lynn Donnelly, whom he subsequently fired. Donnelly was later reinstated after questions were raised about his alleged victim's story and the fairness of the harassment investigation.

### POLICE FIRED

Two of the four Montreal constables convicted in the beating of a taxi driver, who died 26 months later from his injuries that had left him in a coma, have been fired. The other two received suspensions of 42 and 116 days without pay. All four were found guilty of assault causing bodily harm, but drew light sentences.

### STERN WARNING

The Canadian Broadcast Standards Council said it would expel Toronto radio station Q-107, one of two domestic stations carrying the controversial New York City-based Howard Stern show, if it failed to ensure that the broadcast met Canadian standards. Faced with an earlier warning from the council, Q-107 had promised to monitor the broadcast and commit \$200,000 to the promotion of Canadian radio talent—but refused to censure Stern. The other station, Montreal's Q102-FM, pledged to monitor the show to ensure that it complied with Canadian standards.

### CHAOS IN THE SENATE

Tory senators used delaying tactics in an effort to hold up passage of reforms to the Canada Pension Plan. The legislation, which will raise maximum contribution rates and is scheduled to take effect on Jan. 1, is essential to go on, the Tories say. But according to the government, the increase is essential to maintaining the GPP's solvency.

### LABBE INVESTIGATED

The railway appointed a five-man review board to judge Galt, Serge Labbe's "integrity, competence, performance and conduct" when he headed the tainted mission to Somalia in 1992-1993. In July, the Somalia inquiry concluded that Labbe failed as a leader.



### DEADLY FLIGHT:

A Boeing Air twin-engine Embraer aircraft with 16 people aboard crashed in Little Grand Rapids, Man., about 100 km northeast of Winnipeg, killing four people, including the pilot. At week's end, two critically injured people remained in a Winnipeg hospital. Ice fog at the time of the accident hampered efforts to arrive the injured by preventing aircraft from landing for 28 hours. In the interim, staff at the local nursing station attended to patients' wounds. "They were remarkable," said nurse Helen Pengelly, who worked 42 hours without sleeping. "They were incredibly, incredibly brave people considering their injuries."

## Belgian anger

A Belgian senate inquiry took aim at Canadian Gen. Roméo Dallaire, who was co-commander of the United Nations' peacekeeping forces in Rwanda when the massacre of thousands of thousands of Tutsi civilians by the country's Hutu-dominated army began in April, 1994. The senators, who were investigating the deaths of 10 Belgian soldiers under Dallaire's command, concluded that the general showed poor judgment when he ordered the Belgians to escort the Rwandan prime minister to a radio station to appeal for calm. While obeying that order, the peacekeepers and the prime minister were captured and murdered by Rwandan soldiers. Dallaire was accused of be-

ing "not very professional" in failing to protect the men. In addition, the report blames the UN Security Council—especially the United States—for Belgian difficulties for mistakes that left the 3,500 member peacekeeping force vulnerable and unable to stop the genocide.

Dallaire, who now handles administrative matters at defence headquarters in Ottawa, was prohibited from testifying before the inquiry by UN Secretary-General Kofi Annan. However, in written submissions to the inquiry and again last week, Dallaire defended his decisions, saying that his forces were heavily outnumbered and that a rescue attempt would have put other troops at risk. He was also decry by his superiors. Gen. Maurice Baril, chief of the defence staff, "I have absolute confidence in him and his judgment," Baril said.

## Countdown to MAI

As Canada prepares to sign the Multilateral Agreement on Investment and opening, a committee of MPs tabled a report in the Commons, calling on the government to stand by several key principles. The committee argued as well to encourage all investors related to foreign investment,

such as the US Helms-Burton law, which can result in penalties for companies that do business in Cuba. The committee also endorsed Canada's position on making culture free the agreement, and supported changes promoting health, labor and the environment. Meanwhile, the Council of Canadians rejected the agreement, arguing that the measures fall far short of what is needed to protect jobs and sectors.

# Inside the Kyoto deal



## A landmark agreement receives mixed reviews

**A**lberta's energy minister, Steve West, spent much of last week wearing a tight smile, his clenched jaw and square shoulders set as firmly as his conviction that people who share the oil patch for the next century's fuel wealth have laid their heads. As the political eveninging his province's burning oil and gas industry, West accompanied the Canadian delegation to Kyoto, Japan, where negotiators from 156 countries were drafting a convention to cut the world's glutinous appetite for burning fossil fuels. Most scientists believe those heating-up greenhouse emissions will radically alter the Earth's climate over the coming decades, and West was in Kyoto to try to make sure oilpatch interests were heard above the doomsday fan warnings of cracked glaciers and swilling oceans. But as the talks turned into nightly tests of stamina and one-firm positions seemed to shift like so much concrete in a

Japanese earthquake, West grew more and more unsettled. "No deal," he kept saying Kyoto's sleep-deprived negotiators, suggesting they should all just pick up and catch the next plane out. "There's no deal here," he told them.

Actually, there was never much doubt that Ottawa would sign whatever treaty emerged from the Kyoto process. "Countries like Canada cannot afford to sit outside international conventions," and Environment Minister Christian Stewart. So before the Kyoto Protocol was even agreed to in the mid-November of Dec. 16—leaving just the conference interpreter left behind after the last talk-out—Stewart had already written their postmeeting statement for Stewart to read to reporters. "We got a good deal for Canada," read the text, a copy of which was released by Maslow's press hours before any deal was

reached—and it's a moment when agreement was so uncertain that a backing statement was ready to close the entire conference. Because it was written before Canadian negotiators knew how deep Canada's own emissions cut would be, the statement included the line: "For Canada, the reduction number is \_\_\_\_," with the blank to be filled in later—and indeed whatever was to be agreed upon as "broadly equally responsible, economically realistic and internationally equitable."

Hours after those words were signed, the magic Canadian number did emerge: a 5.6 percent cut in some emissions to below 1990 levels—the benchmark year for measuring—to be reached between 2008 and 2012. The Canadian target was even more ambitious than Ottawa's opening three-percent offer, a figure that had already angered energy-producing provinces because it went beyond a federal-provincial compromise reached last month that called for a straight reduction to 1990 levels by 2010. Since Canada's emissions in greenhouse gases such as carbon dioxide and methane have risen by about 10 per cent since 1990, the actual cuts will have to go far deeper. Altogether, the world's 38 most developed countries—the only ones legally bound by the deal to cut their emissions—will



Environment (left) and Stewart (above), all negotiators for the Canadian government, the toughest yet still has ahead

Some plausibly voices insist opportunities are to be had in the coming economic and lifestyle makeover (page 50). But the loudest holding his cone: from those who predict that changes will come with great economic pain. "I didn't think we came to Japan to get a political deal that would start a recession at home," an agent West wanted to Maslow, denouncing the agreement as "the placebo that all these big environmental groups seemed intent on getting." Unhappily, with the deal was swiftly and rather publicly raised by Alberta Premier Ralph Klein in Ottawa's last week's First Ministers conference, underscoring the political dangers should the Clinton government as it tries to find a way to share the costs of complying. "It's not acceptable," Klein said of the deal. "This record in no way reflects the Canadian position that was established in Kyoto."

But Ottawa, playing back on American negotiating power, did not make apparent concessions on how those cuts can be calculated. The Kyoto convention allows countries to deduct the amount of carbon dioxide that newly planted forests will absorb, through photosynthesis, out of the atmosphere—which is UN jargon for a loophole in emissions "sinks." It also recognizes the principle of common but differentiated responsibilities, which would allow one country at least to have a permit to pollute from another that has reduced its emissions. And the Kyoto protocol will give developed countries credit whenever they provide financial assistance to reduce gas emissions in the Third World. Chretien has already declared his eagerness to sell more CANDU nuclear reactors abroad—which would enable Canada to gain credits for developing brown coal in other countries with emissions-friendly Canadian nuclear power.

To some environmentalists, those promises amounted to loopholes big enough to drive a gas-sipping passenger van through. Rich countries like the United States could keep burning fossil fuels at high rates, they argue, simply by buying credits from countries like Russia where industrial collapse has cut emissions by about 30 per cent since 1990. That makes Russia a wealthy powerhouse on paper—in potential pollution credits and in cash. Russian negotiators were among the few ones smiling in Kyoto. But the nation worries European governments, slash that made competitors like Canada and the United States would just purchase compliance instead of making more difficult changes to their own economies. In the end,

an overall reduction target of 5.2 per cent, smaller than an eight-per-cent cut in the European Union to a 10-per-cent increase allowed for Iceland.

The deal may carry marks of a hasty patch-up job, and its details lacked some contentious points. It is laden with jargon, and the last-minute haggling over wording at times seemed as dramatic as corporate lawyers crowding the fax on a merger contract. But there is no mistaking the protocol's significance. Although it still faces a long road to ratification and leaves the burning pollution hot days like China and India, the world has shifted into the post-Kyoto era. The potential ravages of climate change are no longer dismissed as unknowable and therefore untreatable. And Canadians have likely begun an uphill battle to find more efficient ways to generate electricity, heat homes and power their cars.

## WORLD

the Europeans agreed to trading emissions in principle, but set the details aside for later.

For a while in Kyoto, the sight of Europeans and Americans huddling around the main obstacle to a deal. Hopes had been high that U.S. Vice-President Al Gore would break the deadlock during his cameo appearance on the day before the deadline. But, on the surface at least, Gore, with his self-proclaimed environmentalist image, disappointed. Making his rather formal Japanese hosts look positively jocular by comparison, a staff Gore merely instructed his negotiators to show "increased flexibility," adding no indication of what concessions might be coming.

Gore's appearance left gloom in its wake. Only moderate optimism in Canada. Maurice Strum, a 25-year veteran of environmental diplomacy, saw much hope for a deal that would—without a carbon-coalition pact even in the forecast—allow a modest outcome at best. Predictions of failure rippled through the convention rooms, a surreal blend of boasts and broodings. 24-hour videos promoting the merits of solar power and alternative lifestyle activists demonstrating how to make paper without wood. Kyoto was the holyfest Olympics. Environment and cooperation (cooperation alone had 30 writers providing information and whispering signs to journalists). Strum's group ranged from the Boyce Club of the World to 40-year American friends who'd longed for new scientific devices. We're one corridor from the Earth's rising temperatures to sunset activities. Back on Earth, the smoking point in the back rooms was the European Union's insistence on calculating the emissions of all its 15 countries under one umbrella. This so-called bubble concept would allow heavier polluters like Portugal to hide behind the gas from Britain's shipping and oil industry, and U.S. negotiators at Stuart Eismann, supported by equally impassioned Canadian negotiators, spent much of his time trying to burst it. "That's how European policy," sneered British John Gurner. "It's never about people's health, it's all about the price of home."

Eismann finally sailed the European bubble policy by threatening to create one of his own—North America, using all those little chemical emissions to create a lower ceiling than the United States would have to make. Heavy per capita polluters like Australia and Canada (the world's second worst) were happy to join the U.S. (third). According to Steven Galloway, a Canadian with Gernsperger, "The Europeans just broke out at the door"—and they're being risk-taking concessions on such American demands as emissions trading. In fact, the Americans agreed to far deeper cuts in their own emissions than anyone imagined—seven per cent—making a mockery of China's determination to leave Kyoto a wilderness garden that the Americas.

But the divide between rich and poor nations was more difficult to bridge—endless, sometimes potentially graver negotiations for the treaty and the climate. There's widespread acceptance that—beyond a moral standpoint, at least—developed industrial nations, which grew rich by burning the preponderance of fossil fuels they dig, should take the first costly steps towards changing their ways. But with poor countries like India and China rapidly industrializing, it's difficult to see them, without some very strong international pressure, making any attempt to curb climate change must include limits on their emissions. And



Conference chairman Paul Eustice with delegates developing countries resisted the pressure

The U.S. Senate certainly thinks so. It has a resolution on the books promising not to ratify any climate change treaty that fails to include the participation of developing countries, and a few senators showed up in Kyoto just in case it slipped through the front door. The same issue also produced the only open clash inside the Canadian delegation, when Quebec Liberal MP Clifford Lavoie, in an argument with provincial Energy Minister West, forcefully pointed the moral case for countries like Canada to act first. The Altonian finally stood up, said, "That's it, I've had enough," and walked out.

Even by China and India, the idea of developing countries rebuffed all attempts to bring them into the second, even on a voluntary basis. The Chinese devoted their five-minute speech to territorial nationalism for their "highly disappointing progress" in cutting emissions, and repeated that their only responsibility was to lift their people out of poverty. At lunch one day, John Fraser, Canada's ambassador for the environment, chastised a Malaysian negotiator for putting the "historic all righteousness ahead of the political reality that is the U.S. Senate." But in the final hours, China and India joined an effort developing nations to defend even a gently worded article that would have permitted developing countries to join the protocol at an unspecified future date.

Canada might have helped was same. Third World nations outside had Ottawa not undermined its traditional honest broker's role by failing to adopt a coherent position until the conference was already under way. Instead, Stewart's unapologetic speech to the delegates was a cautious checklist of Ottawa wishes, complete with the negative Canadian push to federal provincial co-operation for the lower surface.

As the pushing lag for the official conclusion over Ottawa's climate change policy throughout the fall, Stewart endured opposition from both sides and in his own party that she was "a nice lady," politically out of her league in such a sensitive portfolio. "My problem has been that I'm Christine Who People don't know me," said Stewart in her hotel suite after the last marathon session ended. "My style is to find common ground rather than make a lot of noise, but I can be tough on the things I believe in. And I believe very strongly about the agreement."

Despite the pushing she has taken, Stewart fought fiercely in

cabinet to be the senior head of the delegation to Kyoto. That other senior delegation members noted apologetically that she realized, too, the importance of getting along with Natural Resources Minister Ralph Goodale, the shrew, skilled minister who was at least her equal during the Kyoto talks. The pair attended meetings together and each was on the line for the crucial phone call back to Christine Goodale could even settle after his first sampling of the U.N.'s marvelously eccentric diplomacy. "I decided after a while that we were just going to have into those rooms and make ourselves heard," he and afterwards.

If the Goodale-Stewart team functioned as amicably as suggested, Christine saw welcome the change in climate from the days when their predecessors—Sheila Copps and Anne McLellan—openly warred with each other. But after weeks of playing defense looking up to Kyoto and managing relations between Ottawa and the provinces, the Liberals must apply more skill to managing the country through the coming search for the trade-offs required to meet the targets. It is a reminder of federal-provincial incoherence. For example, the House of Commons environment committee called for action this month for an end to federal tax breaks for the fossil fuel industry that



are helping develop Alberta's heavy oil assets. "That will have to be done," Stewart acknowledged last week, before cautiously adding, "over time."

But if Kyoto marked a turning of the old energy order, it also signalled an end to using the lack of scientific certainty as an excuse to do nothing. Not that everyone is declaring the scientific debate over, or claiming that predictions of the next century's climate are now perfect. "All the focus on diplomacy, politics and economics obscures the fact that we still need better science," says Gordon McDermott, Canada's senior atmospheric scientist who came to Kyoto after attending a conference of meteorological glaciologists nearby. But now is the time, as British Deputy Prime Minister John Prescott said last week, "to worry about getting the political science right." And in Kyoto, for the first time, that means following Minister's climate contribution to the delegates that "people routinely take decisions on their own lives with less to go by" and that "precaution now is far wiser than past policy."

## CASHING IN ON CLEANER AIR

Dale Johnson could use some good news. For more than 14 years, Johnson has worked long hours trying to make his company, Wind Power Inc. of Procter Creek, Alta., a success. During good times he has employed 50 people, but today only he and one other staff member remain in the tough Alberta market for alternative energy. How, in his struggles with his dream of generating electricity from wind, Johnson cautiously welcomes the news out of Kyoto, Japan, convinced that governments may spend more money on supporting businesses like his. "It leaves room for optimism," Johnson says.

Where there are winners, there are often losers. A number of industries face potential job losses because of the Kyoto protocol. David Manning, president of the Canadian Association of Petroleum Producers, says those losses will exceed any job gains made

Among those poised to ride the new wave are entrepreneurs like Don Tomlinson. As president of Terra Energy Services Inc., Tomlinson's Toronto-based company counsels clients on upgrades to improve air circulation, heating and lighting—creating "energy-efficient" smart buildings. While energy cost savings typically range between 20 and 30 per cent, Tomlinson says many businesses still ignore energy efficiency. "You're adding, it will help change that by increasing public awareness and 'forcing' everyone to have a more holistic look at what we're doing."

A misguided approach is also at the core of Woodstock Consulting Inc. of Enn, Ont. The small firm is marketing a service that analyzes emissions for clients and suggests ways of reducing or offsetting emissions. Instead of attacking the problem at the factory, for example, companies could invest in green alternatives—re-forestation, car pooling or acidic forest. Woodstock consultant Neil Bad says that Kyoto will mean more companies looking for imaginative solutions. "We're going to get busy," Bad says. "Are we going to get busy tomorrow? Probably not. Are we going to get busy in a year?"

While energy sources look forward to the future, so, too, do some energy providers. One of the most formidable is Atomic Energy of Canada Ltd., supplier of CANDU nuclear reactors. And in a greenhouse gas-conscious world, says Allen Karpikoff, AEC's vice-president of marketing and sales, that can mean only good things. "In our world, it will undoubtedly increase the use of nuclear power," he says.

Power also has been in gait since the late 1980s, produced by decomposing organic material, is a greenhouse gas 30 times more potent than carbon dioxide. It's the only fossil fuel in the world. The International Law and Policy reported last week that only 10 landfills in Canada collect and combust methane to generate electricity. According to Greg Jenks, the report's author, if Canada could convert 60 per cent of its landfills to methane to electricity, the country could cut its atmospheric portion of its greenhouse gas. "Any city of about 100,000 people is likely to have a landfill large enough to support a methane-gas capture system," Jenks says. In a post-Kyoto world, there seems to be an abundant potential for cleaning the air.

DAVID HALLSHESKA

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## World NOTES

### YELTSIN IN HOSPITAL

Russian President Boris Yeltsin's fragile health once again preoccupied the country as he entered hospital with what his doctor said was the flu. Yeltsin underwent a quadruple bypass in 1996, and there had been speculation that his heart was once again troubling him. The Kremlin dismissed those claims, and tried to reassure the country by broadcasting news footage of Yeltsin signing documents.

### COUNTERING WINNIE

South Africa's ruling African National Congress plans to make it harder for Winnie Mandela to win the party's deputy leadership. Madiba's Mandela, 63, who was elected A.N.C. president in 1991, this year was hit by accusations before the country's Truth and Reconciliation Commission that she ordered people killed or tortured in the 1980s. To counter the A.N.C. push to reinstate this week, Mandela would need a nomination from the floor, but new rules would make nominating candidates difficult.

### BLAIR MEETS SINN FEIN

For the first time since 1921, an Irish republican leader entered 10 Downing Street, the official home of British prime ministers. Sinn Féin president Gerry Adams was invited by Prime Minister Tony Blair to discuss the future of Northern Ireland. The pair agreed to hold further talks.

### JOLLY JACKAL

The legendary terrorist known as Carlos the Jackal appeared smiling in a Paris court to face charges of killing two French investigators in 1995. In the same year, Carlos, now 48, was sentenced to life imprisonment for his role in the kidnapping of OPEC oil minister in Vienna. The PLO supporter is also linked to the 1972 massacre of 11 Israeli athletes at the Munich Olympics.

### SKYJACKING CHARGE

Kingston, Ont., resident Felix Ravelle Peterson-Coplin was arrested as he crossed the U.S. border and charged with hijacking an Eastern Airways jet 28 years ago and forcing it to fly to Cuba. Formerly of the Dominican Republic, Peterson-Coplin became a Canadian in 1994. He was working as a janitor and illegally crossed the border near Kingston if convicted, he faces up to 28 years in prison.



### FAREWELL, BRITANNIA:

The Queen wipes a tear from her eye as she joins Prince Philip to watch the decommissioning of the royal yacht Britannia in Portsmouth harbor. The Queen had used the ship regularly since she christened it 44 years ago, but it has become too costly to maintain. Its last major service was carrying Prince Charles and the British governor out of Hong Kong on June 30 as the colony was returned to China. The ship may yet avoid the scrap heap and live on as a floating museum.

## Slow justice for JonBenet

In the year since she was brutally murdered, JonBenet Ramsey has become a star of the supermarket tabloids but she has gained little justice. The six-year-old beauty queen was found savagely beaten, strangled to death and sexually assaulted on Dec. 26, 1996, in the basement of her parents' mansion in Boulder, Colo. Last week, police asked the Ramseys—still the prime suspects—in answer to further questions, but the couple refused to respond. From the outset, the case has been plagued by controversy. Police went to the Ramsey house when JonBenet's mother Patsy, 45, reported she had found a ransom note allegedly written by kid-

nappers who described themselves as terrorists. As police waited for JonBenet's abduction to call, John Ramsey, 55, a computer tycoon, was allowed to search the house. He emerged from the basement with his daughter's body in his arms. His hysterical discovery contaminated the crime scene, for which police have been severely criticized and which enlightening with the district attorney. Throughout, the Ramseys have talked to police only reluctantly, with lawyers present. Many in Boulder believe no one will ever be charged. "I thought the case would be solved in three days," said neighbor Joe Barnhill. "I'm baffled like everyone else."

## Signs of a power struggle surface in Iran

Iran's leaders had hoped that a prestigious meeting of the Islamic Conference in Tehran would help end the country's economic and political isolation. In the end, it served mainly to reveal the deep political divisions in Iran. Ayatollah Ali Khamenei, Iran's top leader, did little to put the heads of 55 Islamic nations at ease when he opened the conference by denouncing Western countries as arrogant and unjust. Then, President Mahboud Qhatami, who was elected in May, denounced the gap between the hardline religious leaders and moderates like himself by calling for closer ties with the same countries. "We must utilize the positive scientific and social accomplishments of the West," said Qhatami. The United States later welcomed the conference declaration condemning terrorism and upholding the rights of Muslim women.





## Business

# Gone is the glitter

BY JOHN SCHOFIELD

**H**ending south on Highway 97, just outside Kamloops, B.C., the moment looms like a boogie man in the December sunshine. Racing 12 mi, the huge gold gas and its slender array of pipes reveal the glory days of gold that gave birth to the city, 106 km south of Prince George. Prospectors combing through the Cariboo Mountains in 1860 speared to riches of the precious metal in the Hazelton River and sparked the most feverish race for gold the province has ever seen. More than a century later, however, the rush has gone into reverse. A worldwide meltdown in gold prices has left mining companies reeling, and resource communities across Canada are gritting their teeth. Last week, Toronto-based Kamosa Gold Corp. announced it plans to close Quam's last major gold mine on March 3, throwing 50 people out of work. "There's no point in keeping something going if you can't make money with it," says Bob Chu, the company's chairman and CEO. "This is as tough as it gets in the gold business."

It is unlikely to get easier anytime soon. A bitter which's brew of events is comping to keep prices low, and a recovery in northwest is slight. Last week, gold touched its lowest level in 38 years, dropping to \$282.80 (U.S.), shattering the \$285 barrier that gold boosters had

## A steep slide in prices threatens Canada's gold industry

seen was exposable. The extended slump is prompting some industry watchers to question whether gold has lost its lustre for good.

That would be a harbinger of historic proportions. For thousands of years, societies have treasured the rare commodity as an almost mystical store of value, especially during times of war, depression or inflation. But Asia's confounding financial crisis, the resulting stock market slide in October and recent tensions between Washington and Iraq strengthen the case.

Even the world's central banks are no longer convinced that large stores of gold are necessary to protect their currencies from economic storms. And that, more than anything, has depressed bullion prices. Instead of gold, governments are stockpiling the strong U.S. dollar, and piling their currencies' loss on the untimely strength of their respective economies. The Bank of Canada has led the trend, slashing its gold reserves by more than 85 per cent since 1980 to 86 tonnes. So far this year, central banks around the world have sold 220 tonnes of gold, compared with 72 tonnes in all of 1996, accord-

Sutton-Hamilton have all failed to deliver the beleaguered metal. "Gold is really a fourteenth risk hedge these days," says Bill O'Neill, director of futures research at brokerage house Merrill Lynch Inc. in New York City. "I think there's been a whole change in philosophy."



Mark (right) and Muirway's gold stocks are leading.

gold worldwide is \$282. Earlier this month, Standaert & Muir's evaluated downward the credit ratings of eight gold-mining companies, including two of North America's largest players, Newmont Mining Co. of Denver, Colo., and Vancouver-based Placer Dome Inc. It is the mining industry, however, that is hardest hit. Already hurt by revelations of massive financial misdeeds by its two largest subsidiaries, many companies are barely surviving the downturn in prices. "It's just virtually wiped out the whole junior sector," says John Lindsay, manager of the Royal Bank's \$225-million precious metals fund, the largest in Canada.

Most of the major companies, such as Barrick and Placer, have taken steps to protect themselves from falling prices by hedging their production—signing contracts to sell future production at an agreed-upon price. Barrick, the country's best bridge & gold miner, has already sold its entire production over the next three years at an average price of \$416 (U.S.) a ounce, while a third of Placer's production is spoken for over the next five years at \$475 an ounce. But that has not stopped share

Barrick's Bata-Pool mine in Nevada suffered

ing to London-based Gold Fields Mineral Services Ltd. More could follow in 1998, people in Switzerland are expected to vote on a proposal to nationalize half the nation's gold. O'Neill says it is probably the worst decision to dump most of its gold (typical of the current thinking of central banks). Instead of hoarding a depreciating asset in its vaults, Argentina will convert the proceeds in U.S. Treasury bonds, which currently pay \$56 per cent a year.

Until recently, gold producers could console themselves by pointing to the deplorable demand for gold in Asia. Holdings of gold jewelry by consumers have almost doubled since 1990 to about 26,000 tonnes, and a large share of the buying has come from Asia. In May, Peter Mack, chairman and CEO of Toronto-based international mining giant Teck Gold Corp., said that Asia represented the industry's "ultimate security."

But that has all changed. This year's devaluation of currencies in South Korea, Indonesia and several other Asian countries has made gold—which is priced in American dollars—more expensive, so demand has dropped off. "There just doesn't seem to be anything you can look at to sustain prices any longer, so we're going to go back up again," says Mary Lee Ball, a mining analyst in Toronto with Standard & Poor's, the New York-based ratings agency.

The worst bear market for gold since the 1970s has left Canadian mining companies badly battered. As long as bullion stays below \$300 (U.S.) an ounce, more than a third of the world's mines will be unprofitable, says John Lindsay, manager of the Royal Bank's \$225-million precious metals fund, the largest in Canada. Most of the major companies, such as Barrick and Placer, have taken steps to protect themselves from falling prices by hedging their production—signing contracts to sell future production at an agreed-upon price. Barrick, the country's best bridge & gold miner, has already sold its entire production over the next three years at an average price of \$416 (U.S.) a ounce, while a third of Placer's production is spoken for over the next five years at \$475 an ounce. But that has not stopped share

prices from plummeting. The Toronto Stock Exchange's gold and precious metals index has lost half its value since the beginning of 1997. Barrick, which has seen its shares fall to \$23.65 from its peak of \$45 in the first quarter of 1996, announced in September that it will close the 1.8 million to cut operating costs. And last week, Barrick threatened to buy back up to 10 per cent of its stock, or 31 million shares, in a bid to boost its flagging price. Among the many people hurt by the steep drop to date, former finance minister Brian Mulroney, a member of Barrick's board of directors. Mulroney currently holds shares in Barrick, worth \$50 million, but he says he will not sell his shares until he is paid.

While the managers of most professional mutual funds have managed to outperform the TSX's gold index, their record is nothing to boast about. Lindsay's Royal fund, for example, has fallen about 40 per cent since January. Although Lindsay says low investors are rushing to return their holdings, there are no telling how long they will have to wait for a turnaround. "I don't think anybody had any idea that it was going to get this unpleasant," he says. "The damage that's been done to stocks is really something to behold."

The damage to some mining communities could be worse. Seven of Canada's 50 gold mines have closed this year, and another one in 1998. The industry employs 3,400 people from Newfoundland to British Columbia, and is the major employer in many remote communities. Rose Blanche, a town of 800 located 35 km east of Port au Port, Nfld., used to recover from the shutdown of the nearby Bous Brook mine in August. Owned by Royal Gold Mines Inc. of Toronto, the facility employed 100 people as a day shift, but in a town with a 75-per-cent unemployment rate, every job counts. "We're still surviving, but I don't know for how long," says Mayor Clayton Harris.

Mine workers themselves, accustomed to an almost monastic existence, rarely have trouble finding alternate employment. According to the United Steelworkers of America, its gold-mining members typically relocate close to home when they can. "There's always work out there," says David Ponton, 23, an electronics at Kamosa's QMC mine near Quam. "It's just a matter of whether you want to move or not." The outlook is not as bright for support workers. Betty Rasmussen, a 31-year-old single mother who works as a receptionist at the QMC office, is unemployed, and says she is looking for a job position for which somewhere else will probably be best to impossible.

Jobs could be further threatened if a sustained downturn in gold prices gives way to an expected industry shutdown. A cannibalism is already taking shape in South Africa and Australia, where production costs are among the highest in the world. In October, Anglo American, a South African giant, announced a \$5-billion merger that will result in the loss of as many as \$200 jobs. In Canada, where production costs are low by international standards, companies have a better chance of riding out the storm. "Mines are pretty elaborate pieces," says Placer Dome president and CEO John Wilton. "They have considerable stamina." The way things are going, they will need all the patience they can muster. □

# Not just a toy story

Vancouver's Mainframe plans to expand its offerings



## BUSINESS

Chris Brough is one of those men who commands attention. Not only is he an eye-catching six feet, four inches, but he talks with bickety speed, spilling out figures and comments faster than a television remote control can scan stations. These days, people in the entertainment industry are listening to Brough closely, not only to catch every phrase, but also because his Vancouver-based company, Mainframe Entertainment Inc., has made television history creating the first animated shows using a technology called computer-generated imagery, CGI for short.

Better still, those two programs are among the most popular animated series in North America. *Robo-Force*, a show about robots that transform into animals, is the top-rated cartoon among American kids aged 3 to 11. (In Canada, the series' name was changed to *Beast Wars* after broadcasters objected to the word "war.") And *Archie*, whose characters reside inside a supermarket and battle both computer games and viruses, is number 1 on Canada's YTV. Both shows are 40 other countries. "There was a lot of media about digital animation when the movie *Toy Story* came out," says Pat McGuire, a YTV exec. "But *Archie* had already been on TV in Canada. It was groundbreaking."

These are animation companies using computer-led imaging to create entertainment—including Pixar, the company behind *Toy Story*, and Toronto-based Nelvana, makers of *Dinotopia* and *Dragon Quest*. But Mainframe has a good lead, says Jonathan Robinson, media analyst with First Mainframe Securities in Toronto. "It's consistently approaching its capabilities with new software." Unlike the traditional artists who at Disney, most of Mainframe's animators are twentysomething computer geeks who spend their days in darkened rooms hunched over Silicon Graphics workstations, programming characters to talk and move. George Lucas, the creator of *Star Wars*, is their patron saint, and they have taken his ideal of special effects into the world of animation. "At Mainframe, we have created a virtual world with characters, scenery and vehicles," says Brough, who at 50 is the resident Mainframe McNeelish. More precisely, McGuire says *Archie* and *Beast Wars* are "very easily, plus the movies are really good."

Six months ago, Mainframe went public with a \$27-million offering

on the Toronto Stock Exchange. "We had to create a new client to expand so we could do feature films," says Brough, the company's CEO and a former producer and director of such shows as *The Phantom* and *Knight Rider* for Hanna-Barbera Studios. The company lost \$3.4 million in the six months to Sept. 30—but Brough says that is normal for a young, rapidly growing company. Four years ago, there were 30 employees. "In the beginning, we were running this company out of a couple of hotel rooms wired with machines and cables," Brough says. Today there are 220 people using 500 million worth of computer equipment on 2½ floors of a downtown Vancouver building.

Using the software it developed in-house, Mainframe is now expanding its offerings. There is another children's series in the works,

to be called *Age of Chaos*, along with a prison-house science fiction show for adults. "Adults like the stuff we do," Brough says. "The imagery is mythic and compelling, the men are big, the women are sexy, so we think there is a broad audience out there." Mainframe learned that adults were watching *Archie*—an fact,



YTV says a third of the audience is over 24—and so this season the show has taken on a darker tone and the boy hero, Enzo, has morphed into a muscled teenager, becoming a match for the equally muscled and shapely female lead, Dot.

In cooperation with IMAX, the Mississauga, Ont.-based company that specializes in large-screen movies, Mainframe has created a high-tech reality-animator video in which the three Strain's top computer artists—Jim Pearson, Gavin Blair and Phil Mitchell—co-star in an animated television show. The last Jim Pearson, who created the *Mapets*, helped to introduce them to Brough, who loved their work. "The big challenge for every studio is to beat Disney," says Brough, who was then living in Los Angeles. "You didn't want to make anything that wasn't more visible than their stuff. If you make an image that looks so different, so starting, then you've got a leg up." In 1993, Brough led his three new-found partners moved to Vancouver, whose attractions included the cheap Canadian dollar and skilled animators.

Mainframe is hoping to create feature-length films in the near future. "The challenge for us," says Brough, who owns close to 20 per cent of the company, "is to find new properties that we think have vision and soul and to turn them into something people will want to watch. We know we're never going to replace traditional animation. We just think we've come up with another way to tell a story." A story that has compelled kids from around the world to tune in their television sets.

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## Business NOTES

### A greater burden for borrowers

#### BANKING ON FREE TRADE

Negotiators at the World Trade Organization in Geneva announced a long-delayed global accord to open the world's banking, insurance and brokerage markets to wider competition. Canada's finance minister, Sergio Marchi, said the agreement is not perfect but still down-to-earth and realistic. Among other things, the treaty would require Ottawa to lift restrictions on foreign bank operations in Canada.

#### JUDGE SLAPS MICROSOFT

A U.S. district court judge temporarily ordered Microsoft Corp. to stop forcing computer makers to distribute its Internet browsing software on PCs as a condition for buying its popular Windows operating system. The ruling came in response to a justice department lawsuit that accuses Microsoft of unfair competition. The court rejected the department's request to fine the software giant \$1.4 million a day.

#### ROGERS UNDER PRESSURE

A powerful group of institutional shareholders is pressuring Toronto-based Rogers Communications Inc. to reduce its \$5.6-billion debt. The group, including pension and mutual fund managers, is unhappy about Rogers' "sagging share price. CEO Ted Rogers said he understands the frustration and is trying to improve the balance sheet, in part by issuing shares in a spinoff company to be called Rogers Telecom.

#### SWISS MERGER PLANNED

Swiss Bank Corp. and Union Bank of Switzerland are planning a merger that would create the world's second-largest bank, with assets of \$846 billion. The deal is the latest and largest in a recent string of corporate mergers involving European financial firms. Analysts say it could result in the loss of as many as 10,000 jobs, mostly in Switzerland.

#### YEAR 2000 WARNING

Fewer than half of Canada's large companies have formal plans to cope with the year 2000 computer file, spreadsheet and data base problems. The panel warned that Canadians can expect massive problems unless companies act promptly to reprogram their computers. The problem results from the fact that many computers recognize years by their last two digits only.

The Bank of Canada stopped borrowing with a half-point hike in interest rates as it rushed to rescue the Canadian dollar from its lowest level since 1986. Amid turbulence in Asian markets and a massive sell-off of Canadian dollars, the loanee briefly dipped below 70 cents (U.S.) Bank of Canada governor Gordon Thiessen responded by boosting the benchmark lending rate to 4.5 per cent. As recently as June, the bank rate was 3.25 per cent. Major banks and trust companies immediately followed suit, raising their short-term and long-term mortgage rates by as much as a third of a percentage point. The five-year rate for home loans rose from 6.5 per cent to 7.06 per cent, increasing the monthly carrying cost of a \$100,000 mortgage by \$21 to \$78.60.

Although the rate increases will hurt consumers, some economists believe Thiessen's intervention will prevent more dramatic rate hikes down the road. Sherry Cooper, chief economist for Nesbitt Burns Inc. in Toronto, said the action sent a signal to currency speculators that the Bank of Canada is prepared to take decisive action to protect the loonie. "This bold move," said Cooper, "has earned negative sentiment about the Canadian dollar around."

Some analysts say the dollar will continue to

suffer as long as the economies of Southeast Asia are struggling. Spooked last week by a dramatic decline in the value of the Korean won, money traders sought safety in the U.S. dollar, pushing up its value relative to other currencies. Even more worrisome, signs began to emerge that the contagion is spreading to China. Retail prices in that country have dropped 4.4 per cent in the past year because of reduced consumer buying power and falling investment.

Meanwhile, the shares of Canadian exporters, such as Northern Telecom Ltd., fell as concern increased that weak Asian exchange rates will dampen demand for their products. Finance Minister Paul Martin warned investors that Canada is strong enough to withstand the so-called Asian flu. "The fact is that Canada is in the midst of a very strong recovery," he said. "That, in fact, is what is most important."

But Alan is not Thiessen's only problem. Analysts also blame the dollar's weakness on the current spread between Canadian and U.S. interest rates. Higher rates south of the border are diverting investment from Canada. "That is the brutal reality that has hurt the Canadian dollar," says Michel Sault, deputy chief economist at the Canadian Imperial Bank of Commerce.



Thiessen: a hard answer



### FINANCIAL OUTLOOK

Canada's outflow of goods and services in the July-to-September quarter amounted to an annual rate of 4.1 per cent, bolstered by a surge in business spending on machinery and equipment. Consumer spending was also strong. Inflation is holding steady at 2.7 per cent.

Canada's outflow of goods and services in the July-to-September quarter amounted to an annual rate of 4.1 per cent, bolstered by a surge in business spending on machinery and equipment. Consumer spending was also strong. Inflation is holding steady at 2.7 per cent.

"There is expected to remain in the four-quarter range in the fourth quarter, although the biggest business investment seen last quarter will not be repeated."

"The average rate of growth in the third quarter will be 1.5 per cent in the third quarter, still expected to be on equipment to growth."

—Nesbitt Burns



"The automotive companies continue to be driven by domestic demand, which grew at an annual rate of 5.9 per cent as the third quarter, while net exports continued to decline, pushing the international current account further into deficit."

—Toronto Dominion Bank

"While we've slowed a marginal 0.1 per cent from our growth forecast for next year based on the Asian problems, there's no reason to expect anything but strong growth out of the Canadian economy for the next year and beyond."

—Scotiabank



# Peter C. Newman

## The best new books of a bountiful season

**T**here is a great crop of new Canadian books this year. Here are some of my favorites.

**Preston Manning: The Roots of Reform**, by Frank Dallas (Greyhound Books, \$27.95). The times cry out for an energetic, balanced biography of Preston Manning, the evangelical populist who leads Canada's alternate government—and here it is. Alberta writer Frank Dallas came to his task with two advantages. He grew up on an evangelical farm and hence the trust of the two people closest to Manning—his wife and his mother. The result is an evocative write-up and a uniquely intimate portrait of our would-be prime minister. (Don't miss my reading.)

**Growing Up Digital: The Rise of the Net Generation**, by Dan Tapscott (McGraw-Hill, \$22.95). The theme of this important book by communications guru Tapscott is simple and (re)discoverable: by the year 2000 there will be more than 88 million people in North America between the ages of 2 and 22. They are the Net Generation, and just as the baby boomers dictated the economic, political and cultural agenda of the past two decades, the Net will shape how we live, love and work in the first part of the 21st century. Tapscott's profile of the N-Gen benefits from the fact that 300 of his members have contributed their thoughts and feelings. They will be a generation of Netdoctors—a quantum improvement from the couch potato ones that are us.

**No Holds Barred: My Life in Politics** by John Crosbie with Geoffrey Stevens (McClelland & Stewart, \$35). John Crosbie always says exactly what he thinks and has a no-holds-barred sense of humor. Two qualities that make him among Canada's goldmines. *No Holds Barred* is a joyful snapshot that reflects his subject. One example: when Liberal MP George Taylor accused the Nowke Tory of never having got past his Dick and Jane books as kindergarten, Crosbie shot back that he was sorry Baker's library had burned down. The last of two books, one of them before he finished editing it. The other was *Figures*.

**Figures & Stories: The Work of the Edmonton Firebrand**, by Dr. Joseph MacInnis (McClelland Canada, \$16.95). In 1991, Joe MacInnis, this country's premier underwater explorer, discovered the wreck of the *Edmonton Firebrand*, a giant ore carrier—two city blocks long—that sank with all hands during a 1975 hurricane-force storm on Lake Superior. In this well-crafted, poignant book, MacInnis also reconstructs that catastrophe and explains how a modern vessel could sink so rapidly that none of her 28-man crew had a chance to send a distress call. "Simplicity," he writes, "are the dreams, lying beyond the observable everyday world. They draw us into places we do not belong, confirming that there are times when reason and fact are no match for enduring mysteries." MacInnis concludes that

when the "Big Fat" men into huge seas and winds of more than 60 knots, she was literally driven into the lake. "She shook violently, emerging from one end of her keel to the other. Despite the odds of gravity, but the lake was empty. The *Firebrand* began her long dive to the centre of the earth."

**Blue Sticks and Boiler Rooms: Buying and Selling Securities in Canada, 1870-1940**, by Christopher Armstrong (University of Toronto Press, \$39.95). The only difference between the Box X scandal and stock scandals 100 years ago was the state of the can. Christopher Armstrong, a history professor at Toronto's York University, has also assembled some blue-stick deals that made modern history. This is a bit traditional to the business publicity of the investing public, and to an industry whose ethics have changed very little since raucous postures were sold as gold mines.

**Golden Phoenix: The Biography of Peter Monk**, by Richard Reiterer (Judy Porter Books, \$22.95). What an opportunity Reiterer was handed when Peter Monk, Canada's most exciting entrepreneur, chose him to be his official biographer. Reiterer raised deeply and he raised well. The book contains much new information on the elusive biographer, including a rundown of how Monk was ready to pay \$1 million for *For* and its mission of "read—and here he just raised making the deal. The problem is that Reiterer's writing is so so good you could build a ship out of it. It's hard to imagine any writer making Monk appear dull and ordinary but in his 24th book, Reiterer has achieved precisely that.

**Around the Sound**, by Doreen Armstrong (Doubleday Publishing, \$29.95). This is not a much a regional book about Howe Sound, that pitifully beautiful, Norwegian-influenced fjord slices on their way from Vancouver to Whistler. That little-known slice of natural wonder, ringed by permanently snow-capped craggy volcanoes, features Canada's best windsurfing and the country's first under-water marine park. The area's spectacular history is beautifully told by retired Vancouver teacher Doreen Armstrong, who also includes lively journals of some of The Sound's more eccentric legends.

**Wrestling with the Elephant: The Inside Story of the Canada-U.S. Trade Wars**, by Gordon Ritchie (Macmillan/McClelland & Stewart, \$29.95). When he was energy minister in the short-lived Joe Clark government, Ray Hadzysky, who later became governor general, was once asked about free trade with the Americans. "It's like wrestling with a hachet," he replied, and that resonated the definitive statement on the subject. More along comes Ritchie, who was Canada's deputy chief negotiator for the treaty signed in 1988, to tell what actually happened. It was a great party, we'll tell. We probably got the best treaty we could, but those shrewd-looking Yankees took advantage of our hunger for a deal.



# The 1997 HONOR ROLL



**A**chieving excellence, the theme of the Michael's Honor Roll since its inception in 1986, is a struggle that mankind has wrestled with since the earliest days of civilization. "Even to a modest man, a dream gives wealth," wrote Theophrastus, the sixth-century BC Greek poet, "but to few men comes the gift of excellence."

The magazine's 12 selections for its 1997 Honor Roll have that gift. They also reflect the country's diversity, but are united by the common bond of a fierce determination to make a difference.

Several also share a courage to risk all in the pursuit of their goals: Canadian Ambassador **Anthony Vincent** faced death in a terrifying hostage incident; Dr. **Barry Armstrong**, supported by his wife, **Jennifer**, lost a promising Canadian Forces career for his beliefs; and **Joyce Kilgus** persevered for more than two decades in her monumental, often lonely struggle to clear her son, David, of a wrongful murder conviction.

## A salute to extraordinary Canadian achievers

Perseverance also kept Winnipegger **Ron Richardson** going in his single-minded campaign to save his city from the flood of the century. Without such staying power and internal fortitude, artists such as **Karen Kain**, **Anne Michaels** and **Mary Pratt** would not have been able to rise to the top of their fields. And medical researcher Dr. **Peter St. George-Hyslop** would never have discovered elusive *Alzheimer's* genes without fierce dedication and a strong sense of purpose.

In the competitive business world, survival is a fact of life. But honorees **Milton Wong**, **Phyllis Poulin** and **John Roth** have gone beyond being successful, making contributions to society that truly reflect excellence. Equally inspiring is the dedication of **Barb Bennett-Johns**, one of thousands of Canadians who generously give of herself for the benefit of others.

Appropriately, all Honor Roll members receive a medalion featuring *Figures*, the striving winged form of Greek mythology. Designed by Toronto artist **Dora de Pédery Hunt**, the medallion is shown flying to the heavens, reaching for excellence.

MICHAEL MINTZ

## RON RICHARDSON

WINNIPEG'S RON RICHARDSON LIVES with his two grade school children in a 225-square-metre split-level home that he and his wife, Barbara, built with their own hands. But their beloved home in a new development was endangered earlier this year by what Manitoba officials called "the flood of the century." As a hydraulic engineer with Manitoba Highways, the 41-year-old Richardson was better qualified than most to analyze the coming threat. "When you're putting up bridges and buildings, people's lives are at stake," he says. "If you're going to be an engineer, you'd better be a skeptic."

On the morning of Monday, April 21, Richardson sat at his office desk, studying maps of the Red River Valley. The flood was really his jurisdiction. But he knew that flood fighters were struggling with crushing work loads and suspected that the misbehaving river, which had already flooded several small communities, would pull a few unexpected tricks. "We had no precedent for a flood of this size," he says. "And I thought I saw a problem. No matter how many times I went over it, it kept nagging me."

He immediately telephoned a fellow engineer at the provincial water resources department, where he worked for eight years shortly after graduating from the University of Manitoba. "What's going to keep the water from running around to the southwest and tying into the La Salle [River]?" Richardson asked. His colleague did not seem concerned. "High ground off the west side."

But Richardson was not satisfied and raised his concerns with others. On Tuesday night, Barbara, a medical technician, told him his boss had scheduled an emergency meeting for 7 o'clock the next morning. "It's that question you asked," she said. "Apparently all hell is breaking loose."

At the meeting, engineers confirmed that Richardson had discovered a big problem. Instead of battering the city's fortified south side, the river would slip along the flank and stage a sneak attack from the southwest, near the town of Brunkild. Protected by a 7.5-m drop in elevation, it would roar down towards Winnipeg and large sections of the city might be lost. Richardson's own street could be more than a metre underwater.

The engineers agreed the only solution was to build a 42-kilometre dike extension—a three-month project. The flood was out in 72 hours. "We didn't have a chance," says Richardson. For one thing, they had no backhoes—and a construction project of such mammoth scale would require hundreds of machines. "We asked for help from private industry," he says. "But if they weren't ready to help, we were going to seize their equipment."

That proved unnecessary. Grizzled construction bosses agreed and pledged to do everything to stop the disaster. By Thursday morning, there were 20 pieces of heavy equipment at work. By Friday morning, 300.

Richardson now describes the whole endeavor as a "Hal Mary" project. But strong north winds slowed the advancing waters, and when water finally hit the dike, the flood fighters had been at work for seven days instead of the three they had calculated. Despite gale-force winds and driving rain, the dike held, and held again, and when the river crested on May 2, the worst was over.

Although the emergency dike was a triumph for thousands of men and women who built it, Richardson says that they never had an opportunity to celebrate. "We all just went home," he says. "We were exhausted."

JAKE MACDONALD

I thought I saw a problem it kept nagging me'



Ron Richardson, by Phil Sord  
along the Brunkild dike, southwest of Winnipeg



Anne Michaels by Rick Chern on campus at Victoria College, University of Toronto

## ANNE MICHAELS

STRANGERS OFTEN APPROACH ANNE MICHAELS on the streets of Toronto these days to tell her how much they love *Fugitive Pieces*. It's meant to them. On a recent flight to London, an elderly woman recommended *Fugitive Pieces* to her son-in-law—unaware that she was talking to the novel's 38-year-old author. "Then she stopped in mid-sentence, and just stared at me," Michaels recalls, laughing, as she described the look of growing recognition on the woman's face. "It was awkward and wonderful in the same time." One letter from a geologist stationed in the Antarctic particularly delighted her: he wrote to say that he was trying to view his bleak surroundings through the same inquiring eyes as Athos, the Greek geologist in Michaels's novel of a Holocaust survivor.

In fact, Michaels's fictional debut has struck a chord with hundreds of thousands of readers. Her novel has been published in more than 25 countries and this year won a half-dozen Canadian and international awards, including Britain's £72,000 Orange Prize for fiction and the \$105,000 American Lambda Literary Award. The money has bought her time to write—"the greatest luxury," the self-proclaimed author says.

For Michaels, more accustomed to long walks in Toronto swarms than the bright lights of TV cameras, success has meant 18 months of readings, book signings, and interviews in North America and Europe. She has been gratified by the seriousness with which her book has been treated and surprised at the curiosity about her personal life. "I just don't want the focus on me," she explains. "It's got to do with a feeling of humility towards the work."

All Michaels will reveal is that she is the youngest of four children, with three older brothers. Her mother was born in Canada while her father's family, Polish Jews, immigrated in 1931, when he was 13. A graduate of the University of Toronto, she wrote from the time she was a child, eventually producing two award-winning books of poetry. She lives alone, has taught creative writing to pay the bills, and goes into hibernation at critical stages of her work. In between, she reads, sees movies and spends time with friends, most of them non-writers. She also walks a lot. "I'm trying to uncover a lost Toronto," she says, "hidden sense of urban history and geology."

Michaels uses that fascination with landscape and history to poetic effect in *Fugitive Pieces*: the tale of seven-year-old Jakob Beer, whose family has been slaughtered by the Nazis. Critical accolades were almost universal, with some of the most emotionally loaded reactions occurring in Germany—where the book has sold nearly 100,000 copies and where much of the postwar generation grew up in a deafening silence about the Holocaust. "Silence is a painful and corrosive thing," says Michaels. "How can you come to terms with the past if you don't even know what the past is?"

Writing the book meant grappling with questions about both goodness and the existence of evil—an endeavor that Michaels initially tried to avoid because she found it too daunting. But over time, the characters' voices became too insistent to ignore. "For me, writing is a question of supreme control and complete surrender," she says. "Both are essential, and you need to know when to do each." Michaels's surrender to those inner voices became her literary triumph—a tribute to the power of language and the need to remember.

DUANE TURNBIDE

**I** just don't want the focus on me.  
It's got to do with a feeling of humility towards the work.

## ANTHONY VINCENT

*It was quite clear  
they would have been happy  
to see me quit'*

ANTHONY VINCENT is certainly dressed for the occasion: even if he is not quite as resplendent as either his escort of mounted horse guards or the king of Spain himself. In crisp white tie and long black tails, he cuts a fine figure as he alights from the horse-drawn carriage in the cobbled courtyard of the royal palace in Madrid. But the assembled guards are magnificent, bright autumn sunshine working on drawn sabres and polished breastplates. And Juan Carlos is dazzling, outfitted in the ceremonial regalia of the Spanish crown, a uniform of midnight blue, encrusted with gold, gritled round with diamonds. Even as packed a diplomat as Vincent, on hand to officially present his credentials as Canada's new ambassador, is impressed by the pomp and pageantry of it all. "A real spectacle," he later acknowledges, "one of the high points of my career."

But not the major one. For Vincent's three decades of service in Canada's diplomatic corps have been frequently punctuated by occasions of some moment, both high and low. He won international renown, prior to becoming ambassador to Spain in September, when his three-year tour as Canadian envoy to Peru was marked by the dramatic seizure of more than 500 hostages at the Japanese ambassador's residence in Lima. A hostage himself during the initial hours of the attack by armed terrorists, Vincent was released to serve as mediator between the Peruvian authorities and the 25-member guerrilla band, a task he performed tenaciously throughout the five-month-long crisis that came to a bloody conclusion in late April. "It all ended badly for the guerrillas, of course," he remarks as he sits in the book-lined study of the ambassador's official residence in a leafy Madrid suburb. "But for the hostages, I simply cannot describe what a story that was of human courage and

endurance, all of those desperate men, never knowing what was going to happen, yet somehow managing to retain their dignity."

As a former senior adviser for security and counterterrorism at the foreign affairs department in Ottawa, Vincent was particularly suited for his role in Peru. But it was a task he might never have had the opportunity to perform if Brian Mulroney's government had its way. Vincent's career almost came to a premature end as a result of the key part he played in the Mohamed al-Mashat affair. As security chief, Vincent chaired the departmental committee that recommended that Mashat, former Iraqi ambassador in Washington, be granted landed immigrant status in March 1991 just days after the Gulf War ended. When the decision prompted a public outcry, Mulroney's cabinet laid the blame on the bureaucrats and Vincent was dropped into limbo. "Mysteriously, I suddenly had nothing to do," he recalls. "It was quite clear they would have been happy to see me quit."

He chose to stay on instead. The government eventually changed. And Vincent was posted to Lima, then Madrid, widely regarded within the foreign service as a choice assignment. If it is a reward, Vincent, now 58, certainly seems to be relishing it, as he relaxes in his study, casting a fond eye out toward a manicured garden where wife Lucie, a former teacher, and 11-year-old daughter Alexandra, their only child, are playing with a black cat called Hokusai. "Life is full of surprises," he reflects after recounting the circumstances of his birth in England. His childhood in Ottawa, Calgary and Vancouver and diplomatic postings that have taken him around the globe. "The secret, I think, is to endure." He pauses to add: "I guess Lucie taught me that." Judging from his own career, it is almost he learned long before Peru.

BARRY CAVE





## JOYCE MILGAARD

**I**NSIDE THE ARY, LEMONY-WHITE First Church of Christ, Scientist in Beaverville, N.Y., Joyce Milgaard is among a band of 30 worshippers. Milgaard drives to the 50-year-old church every Sunday from her apartment in nearby Roseton, just north of Manhattan, where for the past year she has been administrator and nursing director of High Ridge House, a Christian Science Hospital. In the middle of singing Hymn No. 278, Milgaard leans towards her neighbor. "I really worked on this next verse," she whispers, "to help me deal with David's situation." Then she continues in a sweet, girlish soprano. "Trustful and steadfast though trials be, let's remember one thing do thou ask of the Lord/Glance to go forward! whenever He guide thee/Gladly obeying the call of His word." The "David" she refers to is her son, David Milgaard, who spent almost 23 years in prison after he was wrongfully convicted of the 1980 murder of a Saskatoon nursing assistant. It was because of the intensive detective work and ferocious advocacy by Joyce Milgaard—including butt-kicking then-Prime Minister Brian Mulroney in September, 1991—that David is free. "She is a gem, a G-E-M," says David, now 45. "I love my mother very much. She is very, very special."

"Special" does not begin to describe the firmest daughter from Peterborough, Ont., who took on the system in a 23-year battle for her son's freedom. In April, 1992, the Supreme Court of Canada overturned David's conviction, and he was released from jail. Then, last July, DNA tests exonerated him. "The testing was far David more than anything else," says Milgaard. "I know he was innocent, the family knew. But every time David would look into people's eyes, he would see questions."

Milgaard shows little wear from the agony of those 23 years. Over that period, she witnessed David's deepening depression, his suicide attempts and his two prison breaks. The weekend of the second escape, she returned to her then-Winnipeg home to find that her husband, Lorne, had moved out (they never reunited but continue to be good friends). In 1985, her insistence on devoting nearly all her time and money to trying to exonerate David forced her to leave her job as a property manager and sell her \$200,000 interest in eight rental holdings. Yet at 67, she is youthful, vigorous and quick to laugh.

Trained as a Christian Science nurse in the early 1990s, she practised her profession in Princeton, N.J., and Ottawa before getting her position as head of nursing at High Ridge House. Milgaard frequently works double shifts, seven days a week, at the 30-bed facility which adheres to the religion's belief in healing through faith and prayer, without the help of medicine or medical intervention. She also finds time to volunteer for the Toronto-based Association in Defence of the Wrongly Convicted, of which she is a director.

Milgaard maintains her conviction to Christian Science more than 30 years ago has helped her survive the darkest days and will help her face any future challenges. But for now, Milgaard is swaying the end of the nightmare that she, her husband and her three other children shared with David. "There's an innocence about him that prison hasn't been able to touch," she says with pride. Much the same can be said for Joyce Milgaard, who thinks the family's ordeal had a God-given purpose. "I really believe," she says, "that it was to change the justice system of our country."

PATRICIA HILCHY

Joyce Milgaard, by Peter Deligi, on the balcony of her New York City apartment

*knew he was innocent;  
the family knew'*

## PETER ST. GEORGE-HYSLOP

*Fighting a disease that attacks  
'the most human of our human qualities'*

PETER ST. GEORGE-HYSLOP, the physician and geneticist credited with discovering two of the genes thought to cause Alzheimer's disease, is not thinking about medical matters. On a bright, late-autumn day, he is inside a specialty auto repair shop on a Toronto backstreet peering at the rear suspension of a silver Jaguar sports car. Beside him, a mechanic explains the modifications needed for his 25-year-old automobile when its mighty power plant is reinstalled after being rebuilt in Cleveland. When he has finished labelling and asking questions, St. George-Hyslop, 46, strides briskly towards the University of Toronto campus, where he pursues his vocation hunting the mechanisms that trigger Alzheimer's and other neurological diseases. The jagged, he says, provides a useful balance in his life. "After a day in the laboratory when nothing seems to work out," he explains, "it's nice to see some clear-cut physical problem that's getting solved."

In fact, the record shows that things have unfolded with considerable success in St. George-Hyslop's lab. Within a two-month period in 1995, his team identified a pair of genes that appear responsible for causing the memory-eroding symptoms of Alzheimer's to appear in people as young as 30. The findings are potentially of vast importance in battling a merciless disease that afflicts more than 300,000 Canadians. And they brought St. George-Hyslop a flood of honors, including Canada's \$50,000 Michael Smith Award for Excellence last year and, in January, the 1997 Howard Hughes Foundation Scholarship Award, worth \$545,000 over five years. Along with two genes discovered in other labs, the discoveries shed light not only on the beginnings of Alzheimer's, but on the process that probably underlies all manifestations of

the disease. It is a cascade of events that begins with a tiny error in a victim's genetic code and culminates in the formation of the toxic substance beta-amyloid, which kills brain cells. In the once baffling world of Alzheimer's, says St. George-Hyslop, "things are beginning to make sense."

Born in Kenya where his veterinarian father specialized in research, St. George-Hyslop came to Canada with his family when he was 15. At school, he gravitated towards science, then medicine—and the mysteries of the nervous system. After taking his medical degree at the University of Ottawa, he studied in Toronto and at Harvard Medical School. But it was in Ottawa in 1975, while a medical student, that he had his first brush with the pain of Alzheimer's. He examined an elderly woman and saw that "all her higher intellectual functions seemed to be gone. It struck me that was a disease that attacked the most human of our human qualities."

His subsequent relentless war on Alzheimer's has already yielded understanding that could lead to better drugs—and perhaps even a cure. In his hectic life, St. George-Hyslop runs his own laboratory, serves as director of the university's Centre for Research into Neurological Diseases, and still finds time to personally care for Alzheimer's patients. For respite, St. George-Hyslop devotes time to his family: wife Vera, a family physician, and the couple's three daughters—Nessa, 7, and four-year-old twins Frances and Sam. As well, he looks forward to hitting the road in the rebuilt Jaguar, perhaps in the spring. But transcending almost all else is his determination to learn how neurological diseases like Alzheimer's do their dreadful work—"and to find out what we can do to prevent that from happening."

MARK NICHOLS

## KAREN KAIN

*It's about who I am now—  
a woman who loves to dance'*

**A**S USUAL, KAREN KAIN is at rehearsal, hard at work preparing the National Ballet of Canada for another season. But as she polishes the polished hardwood in the ballet's main gymnasium on Toronto's waterfront, the shoes on her celebrated feet are not pointe slippers but suede boots. She wears not tights, not leotards, but an elegant wool sheath, belted in brown leather. And there are no sudden, breathtaking flights of physical daring, the kind that earned her reputation as the National Ballet's—and Canada's—underrated prima ballerina assoluta. For Kain is moving on this year, having retired from the ballet last October at the age of 46. "Now, I'm doing a little coaching," she says during a break in the activity. "Just because I've hung up my slippers with the ballet doesn't mean I'm going home to lie down and die. There's still lots I want to do."

In her 27 illustrious years with the National Ballet, Kain set the standard by which all other Canadian ballerinas are likely to be judged for some time to come. She has been an international star as well, performing with celebrated companies such as the Bolshoi and danced with legends like Rudolf Nureyev and Margot Fonteyn. Entire ballets have been created specifically for her, Andy Warhol has even painted her on ice. But it all came to a formal close in Winnipeg on Oct. 4, when Kain danced her last role as a principal with the ballet, ending a seven-city, cross-country farewell tour. "I felt very sad for a couple of weeks," she says. "But then I did some coaching in Europe, danced in New York, and suddenly my enthusiasm returned."

Kain's career began early when, as a six-year-old in Hamilton, she took her first ballet lesson.

She was 11 when she enrolled in the National Ballet School in Toronto, 18 when she joined the ballet itself. "After the first year in the company, I was ready to quit," she recalls. "We were doing one-night stands all over the place and I was exhausted, depleted." Fate intervened, however, in time-honored, show business fashion: It happened in 1971, in Toronto, when Veronica Tennant, then the principal dancer, was injured, forcing the company to pluck a young unknown from the corps to dance the lead role in *Swan Lake*.

Within a year, Kain was a star. Nureyev took her under his wing, giving her the lead in his spectacular National Ballet production of *The Sleeping Beauty*. The following year, she won a silver medal for herself at the 2nd International Ballet competition in Moscow and shared another with longtime partner Frank Augustyn.

There was, however, a dark side to her early success—a bout of near-crushing depression that she recounted in her 1994 autobiography, *Movement Never Dies*. Says Kain now about that unhappy time: "I did not have the skills to cope with the pressure that came with success."

Marriage brought calmness, as did her 1983 marriage to actor-producer Ross Petty, with whom Kain shares a home in Toronto. Despite her departure from the National Ballet, she is quick to point out that her career as a dancer is not yet over. Next year, she embarks on a European tour with the famed Netherlands Dance Theatre. Currently, she's working on a TV show, scheduled to air on the CBC early next year. "It's not about the part," says Kain. "It's about who I am now—a woman who loves to dance." And a dancer the world loves to watch.

BARRY CAHILL

Karen Kain Grigg, in Bloor park, downtown Toronto

## BARRY AND JENNIFER ARMSTRONG

**D**R. BARRY AND JENNIFER ARMSTRONG AND their three children have lived in Dryden, Ont., only since last spring, but they are familiar faces to the town's 6,500 residents. Says Jennifer: "I have lived in many places, but never one so welcoming." That is partly because Barry is Dryden's only resident surgeon. But it is also because many people are aware of the role that Barry and Jennifer played in revealing the true circumstances behind the March 6, 1999, killing of a Somalia teenage boy by members of the Canadian military. More than four years after the incident—and eight months after Barry Armstrong testified in front of the federal commission investigating the affair—congratulatory letters still arrive. One, from a retired officer, says: "You epitomize the words 'courage, loyalty, and conviction'."

That is a change from the denunciations the couple faced during the past four years. That accusation came after Jennifer made public the contents of a letter from Barry—then a military doctor in Somalia. In it, he admitted how Canadian soldiers shot two Somalis and, as they lay wounded, finished one off at close range. The revelations led to a commission of inquiry that concluded earlier this year. When the report was released, commission head Judge Gilles Lévesque specifically cited Barry Armstrong's bravery in publicizing the killing.

Everything in the Armstrongs' lives changed as a result of their revelations. At the time, says Barry, now 46, "I expected to serve out my full (28-year maximum) hitch in the military." He was a highly regarded major awaiting promotion. In the eyes of some, his obvious competence, past citations for merit and fluent bilingualism made him a likely candidate to become the military's chief medical officer. For her part, Jennifer, a computer expert with medical training, was living in Quebec City—the site of Barry's last Canadian posting—and taking care of their children: Karen, Marie, and David, now 17, 14 and 13.

Jennifer's release of the letters initially strained their marriage. Along with military efforts to downplay the revelations, the Armstrongs faced innuendo about their personal lives, and suggestions that Barry's life was in danger. But the experience, both say, bound them more closely. "Every time one of us got down," recalls Jennifer, 46, "the other said, 'Would you really want to be with someone who helped cover up a murder?'"

After Barry testified before the commission, he decided, "I had done everything I could. After 20 years' service, he retired from the military—and still, four years after leaving, his not improved the standard issue medal given for service outside the country in Somalia. The couple considered a number of places to live before choosing Dryden, 160 km from the Manitoba border, for two reasons. One was the opportunity for Barry to be his own boss. The other, he says jokingly, was that "this is as far from Ottawa as you can get in Ontario." In the inquiry's aftermath, Barry says he wishes for one thing: "It will never happen, but I would like to see Jean Croten apologize to the Somali people."

For himself, he does no second-guessing. "I am a surgeon," he says. "We are too prejudiced to think we could ever be wrong." When the couple is asked if they wonder how life might have turned out if Armstrong had been elsewhere when the killing happened, Jennifer cites a remark by their daughter Marie: "She told her dad, 'What you did was your destiny, what you were meant to do,'" says Jennifer. "And though it sounds so simple, we know she is right."

ANTHONY WILSON SMITH

*ould you really want to be with someone  
who helped cover up a murder?"*

## JOHN ROTH

**J**OHN ROTH STILL HAS GREASE on his weathered work-engineer's hands. On a crisp, sunny Saturday morning, the affable president and chief executive officer of Brampton, Ont.-based Nortel Networks Ltd. has been tinkering with his red 1967 Corvette (license plate BIG VETT), one of three classic sports cars proudly parked in the winding driveway of his rolling 20-hectare estate north of Toronto. The sound of a finely tuned machine has been music to Roth's ears since he was a teenager growing up in Pointe-Claire, outside of Montreal. "My first car was an MG convertible, and like a lot of British cars, it broke down a lot," he remembers with a laugh. "I think by the time I was finished, there wasn't a thing on that car I didn't rebuild." Now, another task keeps the 55-year-old engineer busy—building one of the world's foremost high-technology powerhouses as he greases over a worldwide empire employing 70,000 people.

In the early 1990s, Roth was instrumental in repairing a faulty corporate structure that had left Nortel splintering. "There were lots of people in charge, and therefore no one was in charge," recalls the 22-year company veteran. The situation he took bottom in 1993, when Nortel lost \$1.1 billion and cut 3,000 employees. Roth, then head of the company's wireless communications division, suggested a more streamlined hierarchy that put Nortel closer to its customers.

Now, Nortel is growing so fast that it can barely satisfy its enormous appetite for high-tech talent. At a time when some executives build profit by slashing jobs, Roth is creating opportunities for thousands of young Canadians. This year alone, company recruiters have signed up about 8,500 new employees, one-third of them fresh from university. But Canadian schools are not producing enough students with the skills Nortel needs, laments Roth, who earned a master's degree in electrical engineering from Montreal's McGill University in 1967. "Nortel hires a quarter of all available electrical engineering and computer science grads in Canada each year," he says. "One company should not consume a quarter of a nation's output." That's why Roth has decided to make improved skills training Nortel's number 1 social objective. In 1997, the company spent about \$8 million on university scholarships and research, and plans to spend more next year. "Education was always a focus at Nortel—it was one of several," he says. "I am going to make it the focus."

Training is only half the battle. In the computer age, Roth says, success also depends on making employees feel valued, and giving them room to grow. His own career at Nortel could be a blueprint. At 35, Roth became the youngest general manager in the company's history. A year later, in 1978, he became its youngest vice-president, and in 1981, its youngest president when he was picked to head a research subsidiary in Ottawa. Roth, who has relocated five times during his career with the company, attributes much of his success to the support of his wife, Margaret, and his two daughters, now in their early 20s. But in his view, effective leaders also have an ability to paint pictures that capture a company's imagination. "If you can show people a compelling im-



John Roth, by Fred Green, on his corporate jet at Toronto's Lester B. Pearson International Airport.

age, they'll work harder than you could ever order them to work."

As Nortel CEO since October, Roth knows something about vision. Six years ago, he spearheaded the company's foray into wireless communications, a division that now accounts for 22 per cent of its revenues. "I guess one knock I've had is to always get the 50,000-foot view," he says. Now, Roth notes, the future lies in making the Internet as ubiquitous and reliable as the phone system. He intends to make Nortel a leader there, too—even if it means getting his hands a little dirty.

JOHN SCHOFIELD

**E**ducation was always a focus—I am going to make it the focus'

## MILTON WONG

THE CRYSTAL CHANDELIERS glittered in the hotel ballroom and the soft light played over silverware nestled on frosty white linen. The cluster of Vancouver's most prominent citizens flowed between tables of delicate linen, tenderloin and soup of prime Kilkenny wine. The highlight of the late November gala was to be an address by one of the world's most powerful men, Jiang Zemin, president of China.

But first, Jiang joined other guests in silence as Chief Joseph Gosnell blessed the gathering in his native Napa's tongue. Gosnell's impoverished land is close to reaching a historic land-claim settlement; his presence at the banquet was an opportunity to build support for the controversial deal. Besides, says Milton Wong, the redoubt Vancouver businessman who quietly made

sure the chief shined the podium with the Chinese president, "I wanted us not to forget the people who were outside and have a different point of view."

It was a classic Milton Wong moment. By profession, the 58-year-old Vancouverite is a money manager. M. K. Wong & Associates, the company he founded in 1980 and sold in 1996 to the Hongkong Bank of

Canada, handles assets worth \$3.4 billion, and Wong remains a very active chief executive. But in his home town, he is better known and more appreciated for his extraordinary generosity in giving time, acumen and, not infrequently, financial support to community undertakings. Indeed, the projects that Wong has helped see to fruition over the past two decades could almost be mistaken for a chronology of Vancouver's civic accomplishments over that time—from co-founding the city's Dragon Boat Festival to mustering support for Science World, a hands-on public showcase for technology.

But the unassuming Wong in plain light of his fellow citizens' gratitude—which this year included an Order of Canada medal. "Everyone thinks I'm a do-gooder," he says. "They don't know how much I'm getting back." Wong attributes much of his investing success to the understanding of human transactions he acquires through volunteerism. "Intellectually, I have a need to be involved in the community," Wong says. "But my approach to life has been extraordinarily helpful in my work."

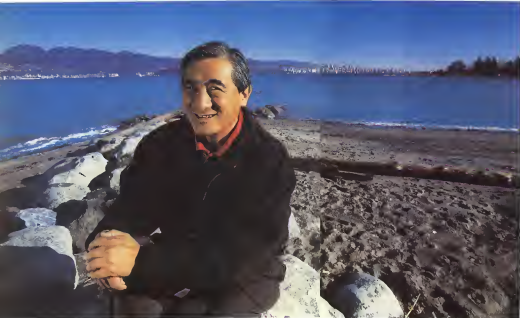
His commitment to community is all the more remarkable for having roots in a time when mainstream Canada held no place for people whose heritage was Chinese. When he was born in Vancouver in 1939, Chinese immigration was prohibited—and Wong's parents were denied basic civil rights, such as the right to vote. Wong would be a child before these laws began to ease. But there is no apparent resentment. "Value changes," he says. "You realize you weren't there at the beginning, and you won't be there at the end. We have to grow and live, not look back."

His own focus is resolutely forward-looking. Wong now has more time for family pursuits, whether breaking from a recent business trip to Chicago to tour Frank Lloyd Wright's home with his wife, Rei, and one of their three grown daughters, or preparing "something dangerous with wild rice and lamb" for a evening dinner for two dozen friends.

But Wong remains concerned for a Canada so radically changed in the six decades since his birth. Among his continuing involvements is the Lanier Institution, a Vancouver think-tank he helped found to research social conflicts that arise as many cultures embrace in the bosom of a single country. It is a goal Wong believes in with passion. "Everyone says Canada is a great experiment," he says. "I say it's not an experiment. It's happening, and it's working. And it's great!"

CHRIS WOOD

**I**ntellectually, I have a need to be involved in the community'



Milton Wong, by Phil Cook, at the Spanish Banks Beach, with Astoria in the background

FATHER  
EMMETT  
JOHNS

“**T**hey’re really special kids. They’re more victims than anything else.”

**S**HORTLY BEFORE MIDNIGHT on a rainy, bone-chilling night in Montreal, Father Emmett Johns pulls over to a car on Ste-Catherine Street in a beige motor home. Within seconds, seemingly out of nowhere, his flock appears—clusters of young people like the “squirrels” girl in a black leather jacket with a purred lip, and a couple who look no more than 16, with pale, somber faces. Several hop into the van to warm up, while others wait patiently outside for free hotdogs, juice, coffee or hot chocolate. Many of them know Johns, 69, a Roman Catholic priest and founder of the Bon Dieu Dans La Rue project to help street kids, simply as “Pops.” He is father to a clientele that some residents regard as Montreal’s toughest youth. But after a decade of passing out clothing, cigarettes, transit tickets and—on request—condoms, he sees them differently. “They’re really special kids,” says Johns softly in his bantane voice. “They’re more victims than anything else.”

The bilingual Johns established Dans La Rue in 1988. It now runs an overnight shelter for street kids and a daytime drop-in centre, Chez Pops, to help get the homeless youth back on school and the community. The van, however, remains the organization’s best-known symbol. Johns, who used to drive most nights, still goes out one evening a week for an eight-hour shift ending at 4 a.m., and devotes much of his other time giving speeches to raise awareness about the problems of street kids. “If Father Emmett Johns weren’t around, we’d have to invent

him,” says Sid Stevens, executive vice-president at Sun Youth, a community organization. “He acts as a buffer for kids that know at a lost resort that there is someone they can turn to.”

Johns has clearly won his flock’s affection. Throughout the night, several greet him with “Salut Pops” and “Ça va bien, Pops?” and some make a point to thank him before hopping off the van. “He’s the only guy on the street that gets full respect,” says Dave, a long-haired 18-year-old from Belleville, Ont., recently diagnosed with HIV. “He doesn’t turn his back on anybody. He doesn’t judge anybody.”

A Montreal native, Johns says he knew early in life that he wanted

to help people. He decided to join the clergy as a teenager, enthralled by the adventures of missionary priests who spoke to his high school. After studying to be a missionary for four years near Toronto, Johns completed his seminary studies at the University of Montreal—and was ordained a diocesan priest in 1982 at the age of 24. He then spent more than 30 years working in a series of Montreal-area parishes, schools and hospitals, but a struggle with clinical depression convinced him that he needed a new ministry. Because he always enjoyed working with young people, he set up Dans La Rue with \$20,000 from a private foundation that still wishes to remain anonymous and a van donated by the lo-

cal Kiwanis Club. Last year, the van received 30,000 wars, and in June his efforts on behalf of young people won him an honorary degree from Montreal’s Concordia University.

In the darkened van, the only religious overtone is a barely visible picture of the Blessed Virgin resting on the dashboard. Johns plans to hold weekly meetings at the drop-in centre for anyone interested in finding out more about God. But he takes a low-key approach. “My mother used to say actors speak louder than words,” he says. “And if I can show them that somebody cares for them, they might realize that it’s God.”

BRENDA BRANDSWELL



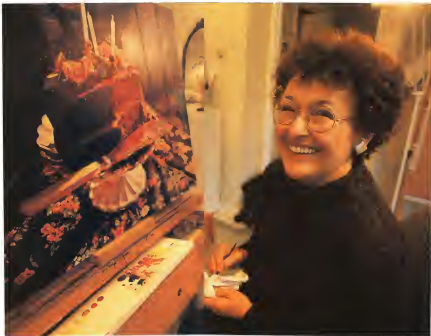
Father Emmett Johns by Christopher Morris, an Atlantic Monthly

## MARY PRATT

**I've always found the real world, unadorned by humans, is a comfort'**

MARY PRATT'S GAZE falls upon the tangle of rocks and started weeping. Then out towards the broad, unfathomable ocean that crashes against the craggy cliffs of Cape Spar, W.D., the most westerly point of land in North America. In later days, Pratt liked to come to this spot, about a 20-minute drive from St. John's, for bracing early-morning walks before beginning her day's work. But since undergoing hip surgery, one of Canada's most beloved painters must be content to sit in her car, soaking in the scenery with an artist's eye for detail. "These rocks," she muses, "are so powerful, they look like the bones of the earth. The grass looks like the pelt of an animal." Such orientalist sights, daunting to some, are for Pratt a source of relief. "I've always found that the real world, unadorned by humans, is a comfort," she says. "When I'm really troubled, these are the only things that give me peace." After a quick last glance, she turns the ignition key. It is time to get back to work.

Ironically, for someone so moved by nature's raw forces, Pratt's own art springs from an entirely different source. For more than three decades, Pratt, 62, has found beauty—and even eroticism—in some of the most mundane corners of domestic life: an unmade bed, a supper table, a dead sparrow hanging into a kitchen sink. With loving attention to the interplay of light and shadow,



Mary Pratt, by Greg Locke, at the St. John's Gallery

and tone, Pratt transforms these everyday objects into works of art. A retrospective, titled *The Art of Mary Pratt: The Substance of Light*, wrapped up a 23-month, eight-city tour of Canada this fall, attracting about 100,000 visitors. Pratt, who attended most of the exhibi-

tion openings, was taken aback by the often visceral reaction to her paintings. "There were a lot of women who would come up to me and just burst into tears," she recalls. "I didn't know what to say. But I'd far rather that reaction than a good review from the art elite."

Born and raised in Fredrickton, Pratt has little patience for what she calls "the ivory tower crowd." Although the former Mary West enjoyed a sheltered childhood—her father was a prominent lawyer and later attorney general of

New Brunswick—her life took a dramatic turn while she studied fine arts at Mount Allison University in Sackville, N.B., where she met and married a fiery young artist and St. John's native, Christopher Pratt. By 1964, the couple had settled in Silemmer, an outpost 200 km southwest of St. John's, and Mary had given birth to four children. As Christopher built an international reputation, Mary kept house—and kept on painting.

Mary Pratt's own artistic breakthrough came in the late 1980s with a series of stunning paintings that depicted household scenes bathed in a sensual light. But as her career took off, the strain of two ambitious, driven artists living under the same roof eventually took its toll. Since the early 1990s, the Pratts have lived apart—Mary in St. John's and Christopher in Silemmer. While they remain married and in close contact, Mary frankly admits: "We both need comfort, but what we give each other is misery. And that's too bad."

To her own surprise, Pratt, who has an infectious laugh and a wicked sense of humor, says she has lately become "a bit of a recluse." Despite suffering from arthritis, the grandmother of 10 regularly gets in 14-hour days in her studio, where her CD player pumps out music—jazz, classical, country or even show tunes, depending on her mood and what she's painting. "It's a very selfish life," she says. "But I see these standards of what I consider excellence and the only way you can reach them is to be selfish." For art lovers, the result of all that hard work is a cause for celebration.

BRIAN BERGMAN



## PLACIDE POULIN

*In those moments,  
we learn how  
to stand together'*

**I**N A MODESTLY DECORATED OFFICE that betrays his success, Placide Poulin recounts his bumpy early business career without a trace of anguish. In fact, when the 59-year-old from Ste-Marie-de-Beauce, Que., describes emerging from a particularly grim period, his face lights up with a smile as a sign of accomplishment. Hardships are now ancient history for Poulin, the president and CEO of Mase Inc., Canada's leading bath and shower manufacturer. With 350 workers, he is also one of the biggest employers in the Beauce, a semi-rural region south of Quebec City legendary for its entrepreneurial zeal—and that boasts an unemployment rate of six per cent, half the provincial average. According to Poulin, a local native: "The Beauceron's pride comes from succeeding on their own."

He has certainly done that. The Canadian and U.S. flags flying outside Mase Inc.'s head office in Ste-Marie represent the far-flung scope of Poulin's business. The company employs 1,200 people at 13 plants, eight throughout Canada—including three in the Beauce—and five in the United States. Since going public in 1987, Mase has seen its revenues skyrocket more than twentyfold to a projected \$175 million this year. Locally, Poulin stands out as a business leader who inspires others. "He has the drive of a young executive who is starting a career and plows ahead all the time," says Ste-Marie Mayor Russell Gilbert, who adds that Poulin remains unchanged by success. Indeed, the only visible self-indulgence in his small office is a heavy glass trophy that encapsulates a golf ball—marking Poulin's first and only hole in one.

Poulin thrives on challenges: last winter, he helped spearhead a local fund-raising campaign to buy X-ray equipment—a first in Ste-Marie—for a local health clinic. Over a period of four months, he met with business people for breakfast almost daily to try to drum up donations. Under Poulin's leadership, the campaign exceeded its \$500,000 target by \$250,000. "He



Placide Poulin, by Christopher Weeks, at his cottage north of Quebec City

is a man who never gives up," says Marc Tanguay, the health clinic's director general. "If we hadn't had him, we might still be looking for funds."

After receiving a business certificate from Quebec City's D'Sullivan College in 1955, Poulin landed a technician's job at a mining company in nearby Est d'Angeles. After 10 years, he left to set up his first business, a fibre-glass manufacturer that failed shortly after the start-up. Then, he started another fibre-glass company that made parts for the snowmobile industry, but money was so

tight by the next Christmas that he was unable to afford presents for his wife, Perrine, now 56 and their three children, Marie-France, 35, David, 32 and Catherine, 30, who all work at Mase. "In those moments, we learn how to stand together," says Poulin, chopping the air, laconic style, to emphasize a point. "We weren't quitters." And that meant persevering after fires burned down two of the company's uninsured plants. In 1972, he branched out into making fibre-glass shower stalls, which proved profitable from the start.

Poulin still puts in 60-hour weeks, and shows no signs of throwing in the towel. But he does plan to gradually scale back his work week and retire by age 65—something he acknowledges will be yet another challenge. Says Poulin: "It's not easy when you're the one whose back is in the driver's seat for 25 years to give up your chair tomorrow morning." When he does, Poulin can take quiet satisfaction from helping to make his community a better place to live out his life.

BRENDA BRANDELL

# Fuel for thought

Researchers develop a high-tech power source

When Henry Ford unveiled the world's first mass-produced car, the Model T, in 1908, he joked that it was available in any color as long as the buyer wanted black. By contrast, automakers today roll out vehicles in a mind-boggling array of shapes, sizes and colors. For all the changes that have swept through the auto industry in the past 90 years, one thing has remained more or less constant—the internal combustion engine driving the whole business.

With each passing year, however, the traditional gasoline-burning motor comes under increasing attack. In the 1970s, the Arab oil embargo brought home to Detroit the risk that gasoline might not always flow as freely as water. Later, the industry struggled to make engines cleaner in response to growing public concern about pollution. Under pressure from government and environmental groups, automakers in the early 1990s began developing a whole range of alternative fuels, including natural gas, methanol and propane. So far, none has shown the potential to displace the internal combustion engine, but new researchers at Arthur D. Little Inc., an industrial engineering firm based in Cambridge, Mass., have come up with a proposal that looks to be a strong contender.

The idea is a special processor that, when combined with proven fuel-cell technology, actually converts gasoline into electricity. The result of this clean and quiet electrochemical process is a doubling of fuel efficiency and a 90 percent reduction in pollution, since the main byproducts of the engine are water vapor and heat. Other companies have managed to perform a similar trick with simpler hydrocarbons that are easier to break down, such as methanol and natural gas, but the advantage of gasoline is that an extensive refining infrastructure—on a smaller scale, gas stations—already exists. ADL's current prototype was developed over five years at a cost of \$14 million, joint-



Researcher at Arthur D. Little Inc. converting gasoline to electricity

ly funded by the company and the U.S. department of energy. Fuel-cell technology, which converts hydrogen and oxygen into electricity, has for years seemed like the best alternative to the internal combustion engine. But while oxygen is easy to come by, hydrogen has always been expensive to produce and store. ADL's process breaks up the complex molecules in gasoline to produce hydrogen and carbon monoxide, a common pollutant. To prevent the carbon monoxide from poisoning the fuel cell, the U.S. energy department's Los Alamos National Laboratory built a device that adds a second oxygen stream to the reaction gas, transforming it into carbon dioxide without affecting the hydrogen. In its laboratory tests, ADL used two different fuel cells, one supplied by Volkswagen's Ballard Power Systems Inc., the other by Power Fuel LLC of LaGrange, N.Y.

But ADL's technology is ultimately con-

tinued by the auto industry, the engineering firm—whose past inventions include everything from improved refrigeration systems to the world's first jet bag—could make billions of dollars. That company already knows the road ahead is unpredictable. "We could top \$1.4 billion in the next five years," says Jeffrey Bentley, ADL, who led the development team. "But right now, the market is small."

Cost remains a major barrier. Bentley says ADL's processor must come down in price to \$25 per kilowatt from \$100 before it is ready for widespread use. (The equivalent of about 50 kilowatts of energy is required to run a midsize car.) In addition, fuel cells must come down to \$150 per kilowatt from \$1,500. Even then, a typical fuel-cell engine would run close to \$8,000, roughly three times the cost of today's car engines. "As long as gasoline remains cheap, it's hard to imagine anything replacing the internal combustion engine," says auto analyst Dennis DeRosier.

Still, the cost reductions required to make fuel-cell technology viable could be achieved by the middle of the next decade, in part by mass production. ADL is now discussing partnerships with several companies, including Ballard, which earlier this year benefited from a \$400-million investment by auto and aerospace giant Daimler-Benz AG of Germany.

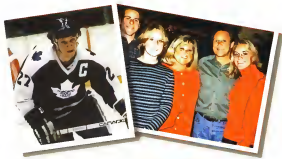
In a few ambitious steps toward cleaner power, Toyota Motor Corp. of Japan this month introduced a hybrid car that runs on a small gasoline engine and electric motor. The Prius, which will be available only in Japan, offers twice the fuel economy of a standard engine while emitting half as much carbon dioxide. An internal generator automatically charges the car's nickel-metal hydride battery. Toyota says it expects to sell about 11,000 of the cars in the first year.

The question is whether any of this new technology will make the internal combustion engine a run for its money. "Hybrid engines are a near-term fix," says James Larkins, a transportation specialist at Georgetown University in Washington. "To convince the propulsion system of the future is the fuel cell." If that's right, consumers may eventually face another choice: when they shop for a new car, whether to stick with gasoline or opt for a high-tech power source under the hood.

ERIC HEINRICH

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## Education

# The tenure trap

**F**or a school with neither students nor teaching staff, the Technical University of British Columbia has managed to generate an extraordinary level of controversy. The fledgling institution, slated for construction next year in Vancouver's northeastern suburbs, is at the centre of a bitter dispute between British Columbia's educational authorities and a growing body of academics, both on campus and abroad. It has already no alarmed professors through the Canadian Association of University Teachers. Teachers have advised its 25,000 members to boycott the place. And now, the 45,000 members of the American Association of University Professors are voting to do the same, under scholarly organizations in Britain, France, Australia and 15 other countries are offering their support as well. Says CAUT president William Bruneau: "As it is now constituted, Tech B.C. is the kind of institution that threatens us all."

Academic freedom is the issue that has the international professoriat so agitated. Tech B.C. is an innovation in higher education, a non-traditional institution designed specifically to work closely with industry in forming out-of-the-box graduates in technology-related fields. Students will be able to access the entire campus, including course material, the library and student services through the Internet. It is, however, an experiment that has been labelled in a way that many scholars find fundamentally dangerous. The governing structure is the principal problem. Under the enabling legislation, enacted last July by the government, the university will function without a traditional academic senate, the body composed largely of faculty and students that normally directs educational decisions. Instead, Tech B.C. will be ruled by an all-powerful board of governors, primarily government appointees drawn from business and organized labor. "It is a violation of everything for which a university is supposed to stand," argues Robert Clift, executive director of the Confederation of University Faculty Associations (CUFA) of B.C. "Educational decisions will no longer be made for strictly educational reasons, free from any economic or financial pressures."

Recognizing the situation is some confusion over whether teaching staff will be given tenure. The B.C. legislation is mute on the subject, just as it is with the laws governing other universities. But Education Minister Paul Ramsey has stated that all employment issues rest in the hands of the university's administrators. "That's not good

enough," says Clift. "Tenure is absolutely vital. If I don't, I don't have the freedom of losing their jobs, if they say something that might offend or their research leads to something that somebody doesn't like."

Until the issues of tenure, tenure and academic freedom are resolved, Tech B.C. will continue to labor under the blizzard imposed by CUFA/B.C. and CAUT. Both organizations want academics to "think twice" before accepting a job at the new institution, which plans to start enrolling



Sheehan facing international protest over issues of academic freedom and governance

students next year, even though the campus in Surrey will not likely be ready until 2000. Says Bruneau: "They are not going to be able to attract faculty of any calibre until our concerns are recognized."

For the record, neither the B.C. government nor the administration expresses much worry over the growing boycott. "We've had no trouble being some of the best people," says Education Minister Bruneau. Significantly, he points to Tech B.C. president Bernard Sheehan, formerly associate vice-president of corrupting and commercial causes at the University of British Columbia, and vice-president Tom Calvert, formerly vice-president of research at Simon Fraser University. "The criticism is extremely premature," argues Sheehan. "We've only hired 15 staff, and the board of governors has only had one meeting."

Ramsey maintains that the battle over academic freedom will be resolved if as the university begins operating and scholars realize that cherished principles are not being violated. "The institution was designed to be more flexible than traditional universities," says the minister. "In order to meet the demand for higher technology workers in the Fraser River Valley, where population is exploding. There is already an acute shortage of postsecondary places for students."

Despite the disclaimers, however, there were clear signals last week that the authorities are growing concerned about the damage that is being inflicted on the infant facility. On Wednesday, Sheehan and Ron Dickson, chairman of Tech B.C.'s interim governing board, met with Bruneau, Clift and CUFA president Tony Sheppard. "I think we made considerable progress towards resolving some of the concerns that

have been expressed about the governance of the university," Sheehan told. Bruneau's Northern Bruneau nor Clift disagreed with that view. "I can't say that I'm completely satisfied," and Clift, "But I'm a lot happier."

Not content enough to lift the boycott, however. That will remain, at least until the two sides meet again in January. But there is now, at least, the prospect of an end to a nasty scrap that has aggravated the birth pangs of Canada's newest university. And for some in the country's academic community that is a welcome development. "It is a small school trying to get started," remarks McGill University principal Bernard Sheehan. "Even if it might not have chosen the right route to preserving academic freedom, it deserves a chance to succeed."

TURKEY CAKE



Hart: 'I gave the company everything I had'

## Real-life wrestling

Taking a break from his daily work-out in the gym at his 850-square-foot, five-bedroom home in northwest Calgary, Bret Hart gives extras his right hand to greet a visitor. It isn't much of a handshake. The six-foot, 235-pound Hart offers only fingertips and no grip—hardly what one would expect from a five-time champion of the World Wrestling Federation. But he has a good excuse: "I've got a broken bone in my hand so I have to be careful," says Hart, whose soft voice bears no resemblance to the intimidating growl of the character known worldwide as The Hitman. The explanation goes even more interesting when Hart admits that he broke the bone by landing a haymaker punch to the upper jaw of Vince McMahon—founder, owner and chairman of the WWE, a company that has taken professional wrestling out of seamy, low-rent arenas and turned it into a multimillion-dollar mainstream TV spectacle. "The guy is sure tough, but I figure he's a bit softer," says Hart with a hint of satisfaction.

Professional wrestling, of course, is not a sport as much as a show where there is little method acting and character development are as crucial as body slams and pile drivers. But Hart's punch was for real this time, and it reverberated around the wrestling world. McMahon suffered a concussion from the

blow, had his ankle broken in the ensuing melee when others intervened and is still bothered by blurred vision that he says could be permanent. The situation—which erupted in the wrestlers' dressing room at the pay-per-view event in Montreal last month when Hart claims that McMahon had deeply taken his life—ended the 14-year WWE career of one of the federation's most popular characters. Hart quickly signed for close to \$5 million a year with the rival World Championship Wrestling—a circuitous way by TV mogul Ted Turner (and while McMahon has not pressed charges for what he calls an "unprovoked" attack, he doesn't rule out legal action if his sight is permanently impaired. "I feel hurt at a personal level," says McMahon. "Bret and I were friends for a long time and I never thought he would do what he did. It seems like his Hitman character became the joke as Bret Hart, but for God's sake, this is a professional, not real life."

More intriguing are the underlying reasons for Hart's bitter rift with the WWE. He says he wanted out because McMahon had changed him in many character traits to a sinister Canadian nationalist—which was fine—who was also a borderline racist—which was not fine. As well, Hart was uneasy with the vulgar language that was becoming common WWE storylines. Then, he says,

he lost the championship belt in Montreal after he had been assured by McMahon that he would be able to leave Canada "with my head up" before losing it in the United States. "I said I'm not going to be trashed or humiliated in my own country and Vince said he agreed, that it was the right way to go," says Hart. But McMahon doesn't remember it that way. The WWE owner told Martin that he and two others met with Hart on Dec. 11 in Tulsa, Okla., to say that Shawn Michaels would win the belt from Hart when they met in Montreal. "It wasn't Bret's preference," says McMahon, "but he knew that was the plan."

Hart, 46, a championship high school wrestler in Calgary who studied film at Mount Royal College before turning to pro wrestling, understands the grammar of WWE strategies when dealing good guys and bad guys like soap-opera characters and then decide which will be champion. His father, Stu, was a pioneer wrestling promoter in Western Canada, and Hart is well aware that business comes first. In 1996, he signed a 10-year contract that would have paid him \$3.2 million annually for three years and \$500,000 a year for the next 17, when he would serve as a management position. But that's when things started to sour. While his new ultra-nationalist character was popular abroad, where Hart was greeted in arenas from Bahrain to Germany in both by thousands of fans waving Canadian flags, he worried that the new anti-American tone—designed to make him someone Americans would love to hate—clashed with reality.

Hart was also concerned that, in a ratings war with the WCW, the WWE has given its producers a more adult flavor, losing the wrestlers' roots with profanity and sexual overtones. Hart, who is married with four kids aged seven to 24, had built his character into heroic proportions by playing the tough guy who ultimately did what was right. "If kids are watching Bret Hart on TV on Saturday morning," he says, "you can know they are in good hands" that McMahon dismisses Hart's concerns as a "crusade" by someone who has not changed with the times.

Former colleagues say Hart had been a model WWE employee, willing to "go over"—wrestling talk for "lose"—whenever he was asked. "I can't speak for what happened between Bret and Vince," says Ken Shamrock, a WWE wrestler known as The Mean Disrespectable Man. "But I can say that Bret is the kind of guy all the wrestlers looked up to." Hart puts it this way: "I leave the company everything I had. I did everything they asked, almost more than 250 hours a year, and an all that got me treated only two days. I was a loyal employee and thought the company would be loyal to me." It is a world of make-believe, where the words are usually as phony as the wildpots, the Hitman snarls eerily.

DANIEL EISLER is in Calgary

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## A toker's rights

In a startling decision, an Ontario judge ruled that a 40-year-old Toronto man who has spent 20 years battling Canada's marijuana laws has a legal right to grow, possess and smoke the substance to help control his epilepsy. Provincial Court Judge Patrick Sheppard ruled that police violated Terry Parker's constitutional rights. Deciding that it does not accord with fundamental justice to criminalize a person suffering from a chronic medical disability, the judge ordered police to return marijuana plants they seized at the time of Parker's arrest in July, 1986. While staying charges of cultivation and



Parker charges stayed

possession, Sheppard upheld Parker's conviction on charges of trafficking in marijuana, and said his decision had no bearing on the recreational use of marijuana. Activists pressing for legalization of marijuana for medical use claim the decision aid victims of diseases including AIDS and multiple sclerosis. In another development, a committee of the American Medical Association recommended that physicians be allowed to discuss the medical use of marijuana with patients without risking criminal charges.



Prepared to be a Hong Kong poultry shop after two deaths, 'every second counts'

## Battling a killer 'chicken virus'

Medical officials warned Hong Kong residents to avoid pet birds and other animals as they struggled to discover why a deadly influenza virus was only found only in chickens and other birds has started spreading to people. "We are entering a competitive with the H2N1 virus," said Hong Kong health director Margaret Chan. "Every second counts." The virus has killed a three-year-old boy and a 54-year-old man, and a teenage girl was being treated for the

disease. Three other people were suspected of being infected. Experts from the Atlanta-based Centers for Disease Control and Prevention were in Hong Kong to help investigate the outbreak, and restaurants and merchants reported declining chickens, consumption. Medical officials say it is not yet clear if the virus can spread from one human to another—which would raise the prospect of a global epidemic—or if it requires direct contact with birds.

## High-tech, unsafe

In 1987, a Swiss researcher found that runners wearing expensive athletic shoes suffered 123 per cent more injuries than those who wore cheaper footwear. Other studies have established that running shoes provide pretty much the same protection, regardless of price. Now, researchers at McGill University say they have found a reason for the higher incidence of injuries: fault in the advertising claims made for supposedly high-tech, state-of-the-art athletic shoes. Dr. Steven Hobbins and Edward Weled of McGill's Centre for Studies in Aging had 15 men jump barefoot onto various surfaces, including one they were told was made of an expensive shock-absorbing material and others said to be made of less-costly material. In a study published in the British journal Sports Medicine, they report that the men jumped harder onto material billed as "new" or "high-tech." Says Hobbins: "People trust the advertising, and it's a broken trust."

## Helping hearts

After a decade of development costing more than \$40 million, the Ottawa-based World Heart Corporation will begin manufacturing and testing a fully implantable artificial pump designed to extend the lives of people with seriously weakened hearts. One of the corporations, an offshoot of the University of Ottawa Heart Institute, and the device, called Heartware, will be implanted in year-old calves before testing in humans in 1999. Dr. Wilbert Koon, director general of the heart institute, said the device could eventually save the lives of people who are unable to receive transplants because of the limited number of human hearts available. Heartware has an implanted battery that can be recharged magnetically without wires or perforations in the user's body.

## AIDS alternative

A Burnaby, B.C., firm has secured worldwide rights to an AIDS vaccine that has shown encouraging results in small-scale human tests. Officials of ID Biomedical Corp. said the vaccine, developed at New York City's Albert Einstein College of Medicine, is designed to prevent the onset of AIDS by boosting the immune system in people infected with the HIV virus. If the vaccine proves successful during further testing in Brazil and Israel, it could eventually provide a cheaper alternative to the current practice of fighting HIV infection with daily "cocktails" of three or more drugs. While combination drug therapy can cost as much as \$2,000 a month, ID Biomedical vice-president Terry Foster said the new vaccine would be the less expensive because it would only be used every three months.

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## Books

# Pages of holiday cheer

'Tis the season to savor coffee-table tomes

Apart from summer vacation, the winter holidays may be the only time when people actually admire the literary state of mind required to crack open those thick tomes sitting on coffee tables throughout the land. This year's crop of gift books is particularly varied and appealing. Highlights selected by Maclean's editors and writers:

the Red River (Stoddart, \$30.95) and A Red Sea Rising: The Flood of the Century (Penguin Free Press, \$29.95) both emphasize the human, often heroic, face of the disaster: soldiers and civilians braving hardships, emboldened residents fighting the floodwaters. Red Sea, assembled by Winnipeg Free Press staff, is more contemporary and easily illustrated. Flood, with a well-written text by John MacDonald and Shirley Stodard, is more anecdotal—and a better-designed showcase for the photos, by Tom Thomson.

The famous friendship between two poets, Margaret Atwood and Charles Pachter, eventually evolved into a remarkable collaboration. In 1980, the two released 130 hand-printed copies of Atwood's linked poems about a Canadian winter morning, accompanied by Pachter's woodcut prints in *The Journals of Susanna Moodie*. Now, Toronto publisher Macfarlane Walter & Ross has published a 240-page, two-volume edition of Moodie's Canadian experience and Pachter's striking figures in a beautiful wilderness stand the test of time—without too much strain on the wallet.

The subtitle of *Chris Stills's Heart and Soul* (Huszon, \$29.95) is *His Own Words*, and the Redwood Hill, Ontario, native uses a choice to make a good case for his unusual writing style. But Stills is overwhelmed by hundreds of two-minute photographs of the three-time world figure-skating champion in action—at carpe diem moments and in more capturing in Ontario. *Stills's Secrets of Skating* (McClelland & Stewart, \$29.95). Raised, an orphan from Ontario, won a world championship at 15, captured Olympic gold at 20 and, barely three years later, nearly killed himself and a companion in a late-night car crash and was convicted of drunk driving. That last fact did not make it into Stills's book, but then, coffee-table books are judged more for the beauty than their believability and this one is graced with original and candid photographs.

*A Woman's Place: Seventy Years in the Lives of Canadian Women* (Key Porter, \$25), edited by Sylvia Fraser, features warring articles and graphics from *Canadian* magazine, with such illustrious bylines as Jane Caldwel and Barbara Frim. Some



From Eye to Eye: Breathtaking close-ups that leap from the page

Three books published in British Columbia show off Western Canada in all its rugged glory. *The Rocky Mountains* (Macmillan, \$40) is the most visually arresting of the three. Japanese photographer Shiro Shinkai—who has made a career of shooting the most majestic images of the world—turns his lens on the magnificent Rockies and adjacent Columbia Mountains. *Glaciers: The Colossal Treasures of Pacific North America* (Stoddart, \$39.95), by Audrey Greco with photographer Bob Herget is an unusual compendium of big tree lore. More than just two-suggers will appreciate this stunningly illustrated book, which details—among other things—the mechanical uses of yew. *The Great Bear Rainforest: Canada's Forgotten Coast* (Harbour, \$29.95) provides an in-depth, unapologetically environmental look at the B.C. coastline that stretches 600 km south from Alaska—the world's last unharvested stand of temperate rain forest.

*Feeds of the Flood: Mowat's Courageous Battle Against*

## BOOKS

pieces are fascinating time capsules—among them “Packing a Box for a Soldier” from 1941. But other subjects, such as 1963’s “Why Are Women So Hard on Each Other?” are timeless.

In the intensely readable, richly illustrated *Alexander Graham Bell: The Life and Times of the Man Who Invented the Telephone* (Griffin, \$60), Edwin S. Grosvenor and Margot Winocur describe the solitary work habits of the great inventor, who had a summer home on Cape Breton Island for more than 50 years in addition to the telephone. Bell invented a device to measure hearing ability (his name is incorporated in the unit of sound measurement, the decibel), the metal detector and the respirator. He also pioneered methods of teaching the deaf and coined the term "give-the-bell" in a 1914 essay on global warming.

Vancouver-based painter Norval Morrisseau is one of the greatest native artists Canada has ever produced. With its essays and reproductions of Morrisseau's travels to the Home (89/95) transports the reader to the gods and dreams.

Anyone who has been to Giverny, the country house of French impressionist Claude Monet from 1880 to 1930, remembers the look of that subtly beautiful place. **Monet's Bousser: An Impressionist Interior** (Random House, \$49) captures the splendor—the blazing yellow dining room, the Japanese prints, the pond that inspired many works.

While colonel was painting my pads, Pablo Picasso was yanking Western art into the 20th century. The first bursts of his accomplishment are explored and celebrated in **Picasso: The Early Years, 1882-1906** (Yale \$60). The catalogue for a major Picasso exhibition still on at the Museum of Fine Arts in Boston, *Picasso* covers the artist's early work in Barcelona, his life and rose periods, and the master that preceded his his toric break into cubism.

**Egon Schiele: The Leopold Collection, Vienna** (Yale, \$83.95) is a spectacular companion volume to an exhibition of the turned-of-the-century Austrian artist's work on view until Jan. 4 at New York City's Museum of Modern Art. Schiele's paintings of pensive female nudes and self-portraits and several drawings that are intelligent, non-judgmental, and poignant in their expression of the human condition are the focus of the exhibition.

The *Greatest Works of Art of Western Civilization* (Thomas Allen, \$70) is an idiosyncratic volume by Thomas Florey, former director of New York's Metropolitan Museum of Art. Florey revisits 111 paintings, tapestries, sculptures and frescoes—masterpieces that he says “bowed me over visually and emotionally.” Each reconstruction is accompanied by an evocative yet chaotic



Darwin Wrenn at Lake Mendocino, startled, stands from a photographer's house of discovery.

discussion of the artist and why the piece matters (10 minutes)

The hundreds of black and white photos in *The British Century* is all the years 50 (Routledge, Hesse, 350) are so superb in quality, comprehensive in detail, elegant, reach and evocative of time and place that they almost obscure the fact that an essay must be written by historian Brian Mayhew. Among the jewels in the chronology—many plots are shots of Lawrence of Arabia standing before his men, mounted soldiers in sun on camels, and of number scholars looking over the back of the sea from London and colonial offices of Bombay—Mafeking during the Boer War. Few pictures are



and museum features every 100g from Bruce Eagle's 1971  
one sixth of the original manuscript. *Firefly*, \$14.95 +  
for *The Star-Spangled Banner* is a revolutionary origi-  
frame of Michael Jackson's 1983 nated more than  
Thriller video.

[illegible]

The thought of stage art sex evokes images of romance and tragedy. **Topless** tells a gritty **Lost Liners** (Little, Brown, \$75), by American oceanographer. Celebrated in film by Robert D. Ballard and Canadian writer-editor Rick Archbold, *Topless* (ages 16+) Toronto photo with grace and style. The impeccable text, focusing on such serious **Other Journeys** a woman ship as the Titanic. *Lost Liners* and *Empress of Ireland*, is a graphic document packed for black and white photography and illustrations. [www.imagesof.com](http://www.imagesof.com)

A few new books lend the continued impetus for Italian food. With a stunning look at

**Wine Club Book** (1995), London restaurants Rose Gray and Ruth Rogers created a British culinary sensation. Now, they present more rustic Italian cuisine—along with bold designs and lively photos—in *Wine Club Book Two* (Flammarion, \$50). At another London restaurant, Les Amigos Carluccio's *Complete Italian Food* (Starcourt, \$49.95). With beautiful line-art and gastronomic pictures, it is a veritable feast. Everything You've Always Wanted to Know about Italian Food Meanwhile, in *Marcella Cucina* (HarperCollins, \$49.95), Marcella Hazen, the queen of Italian cooking in North America, offers recipes on ingredients and dishes as well as recipes in a classic style.

[illegible]

are as breathtaking as Eye to Eye: *Inimate* and *The Animal World* (Garden House, \$39.95). The latter is acclaimed Dutch photographer Frans Lanting. His expansive sections—animals solo in pairs and in groups—flowing from the page uncluttered by captions. Less glamorous is *Mother Nature: Animal Parents and Their* (\$4.95), by Sasekian writer Candace Savage, and *Animal* photographers. Savage has scoured dozens of scientific texts into telling tidbits, such as the fact that males must give 90 per cent of non-human mammals' sperm.

**Cat**

and science. Everest, *Mountain Without Mercy* (Ran from his Colorado, is both a documentary of that tragically successful climb to the summit through the Death Zone. Breathless and his Everest team's expedition. Theater was Jangnam Nangpa, son of alpine climber Nangpa. Library to the summit in 1953. Handing out photographs and a story of life and death at the top of the world.

and rock formations. Tibet is definitely a hot spot of the map. John Strain goes beyond the stereotypes to a **500 Land** (Dundurn, \$29.95). Ninety-eight photos and three maps in the late '80s, enchanting the readers and publishers, monks and children, and offering the Forbidden Kingdom. C

## THE GLORY OF CANADA'S GAME

Cheney Laughlin, a former NFL defenseman, is one of the toughest foot soldiers of hockey after retiring in 1992. He formed for decades near Wayne, Alta. Then, running 80, Laughlin became a coach and mentor to two promising young boys—Brian and Darryl Sutter. One night in 1974, Laughlin told Darryl: "Your brother is going to play in the NHL." Two years later, Brian Sutter made his NHL debut with the St. Louis Blues. But on the day of that occasion, Laughlin died in his sleep at age 64. Eventually, six Sutter brothers went to the NHL, and two are still playing. Here, Laughlin has been posthumously recognized in **The Book of David** by Wayne Gretzky (Oilling, \$22) by CBC sportscasters Chris Gohmert and Scott Russell, a book of charming tales about sports and the heroes they produce.

Small-fewer nicks figure prominently in several new books devoted to NHL players and officials. Two of the stronger ones are **Tough Calls: NHL Referees and Linesmen Tell Their Story** (McGraw-Hill, \$29.95), Memoir broadcaster Dick Irvin's oral history of the men who earn a living trying to maintain order in the ice, and Toronto writer Ross Brown's **Close the Book: The Eddie Shack Story** (Hodder, \$27.95), a psychological biography of the former Maple Leaf who specialized in causing havoc on the ice. But the best of the lot, in terms of revealing the inner workings of the NHL, is **Inside the Life of These Flyers** (McGraw-Hill, \$29.95), by Andrew H. Melchior. He skillfully blends past and present to provide the Calgary Flames forward with, at five feet, six inches and 160 lb., as the NHL's smallest player.

Photo books inevitably show up among the holiday 'rites, and this year there are two good ones. Toronto-based hockey historian Andrew F. Brown has compiled *Portraits of the Games: Classic Photographs from the Toronto Collection at the Hockey Hall of Fame* (Knoblyday \$40), culled from the thousands of pictures taken at Maple Leaf Gardens between 1933 and 1963 by Lou Tonbyuk and his younger brother, Nat. And *For the Love of Hockey* (Fremly \$45) contains first-person stories of 91 current and retired players, collected by London, Ont., journalist Chris MacCann. The book's first-time career comes to star-player Harry Howell, a New York Ranger defenceman of the 1950s and 1960s, who recalls starting every season on the road because the roster had taken over Madison Square Garden, and waiting on the road because the catch-and-throw



**Keywords:** self-report, psychological, sexual tension

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# Allan Fotheringham

## The deadbeat Senator and the Silver Fox

**T**he snowed-out masses of the nation, as winter's chill sets in, are always in need of amusement. Something to divert their minds from icy sidewalks, salted roads and the sniffles. There is a need for a laugh.

And so, to our reactor, current Senator Andy Thompson, our own delinquent deadbeat. Seneca of the people, a loyal senator who has more allegiance to the Queen—as long as he can live in Mexico—than to his country. Why should a senator have to visit the Senate?

Such is Senator Andy's abhorrence of Ottawa that he has spent only 12 days there since 2000. Once a not very good leader of the Ontario Liberal party, naturally he was rewarded by a Liberal government in Ottawa with a plush senator's seat 30 years ago.

Just \$15,000 a year in salary and modest allowance. An officer, secretary at \$20,000 a year, \$80,000 for research and other expenses and \$4 round-trip business-class airline tickets that he prefers Mexico. At the very same time his wife was telling a Toronto Star reporter that the poor man was "a bird" and he was sad and he is under heavy medication because of his own cancer, a Star photo caught him in shorts and a T-shirt—walking his dog in the brilliant Mexican sunshine outside his \$250,000 private white mansion in La Paz. When the tall and fit political jockey (turned 73 this week) greets ministerial Senator retirement at 75, he will receive a \$40,000 pension. Such his such liberty. Kudos away the winter blues. Merry Christmas, deadbeat.

Andy's antics have put a spotlight on the dear old Senate and the papers have had a great time treating the attendance records of other lucky members. Senator Trevor Evans, the Bay Street railroader, apparently cannot be bothered with the one-hour flight to Ottawa much more frequently than *Noboddy* Andy can make it from Mexico.

There are different ways, naturally, of ensuring a Senator's salary. The well-integrated Senator Pat Carney of British Columbia has pointed out, in one of her fiery letters to the editor, that it is typical Ottawa arrogance to think that one always has to breathe Ottawa.

So, consult Ottawa experts and talk to Ottawa reporters to be judged worthy and employed. For her part, she does much of her duty roaming the B.C. coast to talk to fellow men about their seldom problems with the greedy Americans and her fight with Ottawa to prevent all the lighthouses from being deprived of human beings and run by computers.

There are senators and then there are senators. A few nights ago there were gathered in the Lament Room of the Children's Lament to the capital several hundred senators who were celebrating the passing through the gate of a legend of the Senate.

Senator Finlay MacDonald of Nova Scotia will hit the 75-one-and-a-half birthday early in the new year and 30 senators were determined to tell the truth about him. He is celebrated for ensuring marijuana should be declared illegal for anyone under 30—and compulsory for anyone over 60.

He claims that he once received a letter from an unnamed student asking for the names of all senators "looked down by sex." He replied "Sex isn't our problem here. It's booze." (Senator Ernest Manning, President of the Senate, concluded that the chamber of sober second thought was composed of "protestant, genital and alcohol.")

Senator Fin, the Silver Fox, was the first person elevated to the red chamber by prime minister Brian Mulroney. In 10 years, he has raised 250,000 dollars in his own seat. Since 1999, the Senate has only once defeated a government bill—he led the charge.

None has had more fun in life than the Silver Fox. Tall, sturdy, handsome, he served as an officer in the Royal 22nd. "I was a five-year-old at the time who was a better behaved than my father." Six weeks of a certain age performed a slight while his young second wife watched tenderly from his seat—in which they claimed they were the only women in Ottawa who had never slept with him.

The male now shows affection for females by mouth. Everyone spoke Joe Clark, the doll Bob Stanfield, Flora MacDonald. Her, her McDougall insisted him thoroughly, showing the known the male gave. The host was the realtor Senator Norma Jenkins, who used to share a house with Finlay Senator Al Graham, the Liberal leader in the Senate, had his quota of purple stories about Finlay's past in Nova Scotia politics. In the Senate, the Silver Fox and Graham was "the most inveterate bawlers I have ever met."

Throughout the party of the decade in Ottawa, there was the head-shaking admission of the gift of the blarney now rarely told of all these Maritime Celtic speckles—Tory or Grit, Scot or Irish, Nova Scotia or New Brunswick. And the affection that permeated the room, as thick as the cigar smoke.

The Mexican deadbeat is at one end of the Senate spectrum; the Silver Fox is at the other.



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